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**MINUTES OF THE  
ADVISORY CONVENTION  
OF THE  
CONTINUING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Grove Park Inn  
Asheville, North Carolina  
August 7-9, 1973**

Published by the  
Administrative Office for a Continuing Presbyterian Church  
3436 Wellington Road, Montgomery, Alabama 36106

# MINUTES

## FIRST DAY

## TUESDAY

Asheville, North Carolina, August 7, 1973

The Advisory Convention of the Continuing Presbyterian Church met at the Grove Park Inn, Asheville, North Carolina, at 7:30 p.m.

### 1. Opening Worship

The meeting was opened with a worship service conducted by the Rev. Cecil Williamson, pastor of the Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church, Selma, Alabama. The Rev. Robert Ostenson, pastor of the Granada Presbyterian Church of Coral Gables, Florida, preached on the letter to the Church of Philadelphia, Revelation 3:7-13.

### 2. Call to Order

At 8:30 p.m. Mr. Jack Williamson, Chairman Pro-Tem, called the meeting to order.

### 3. Roll

#### ALABAMA

<u>Church</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Teaching Elder</u>	<u>Ruling Elder</u>
Bethel	Union Springs		Leo Houston
Boligee	Boligee	Julian Stennis	
Brent	Brent	Willard Scott	
Briarwood	Birmingham	Frank Barker	John Glasser
		Ken Wilson	John McKinstry
Ebenezer	Huntsville		C.T. Nalls
Faunsdale	Faunsdale		Amzi Rankin
First	Aliceville	Charles Wilson	H.C. Horton
First	Gadsden	William Whitwer	Finis McCluney
			Ralph Langford
First	Greensboro	W.C. Dinwiddie	W.G. Fowler
First	Greenville	Bill Bell	Jack Williamson
Continuing			Billy Harris
First	Hueytown		Howard Segars
First	Montgomery	Ken Ironside	Charles Hightower
First	Opelika		Richard Teague
First	Prattville	Adrian DeYoung	Rudolph Russell
First	Uniontown	Virgil Pino	
First	Troy	John Clelland	Osbourne Griffin
Linden	Linden		Theodore Martin
			Charles Miller, Jr.
Millbrook	Millbrook		
Oak Park	Montgomery	Laurie Jones	Ben Young
Ozark	Ozark	David Crocker	Dan Carroll
Providence	Montgomery		J.L. Mills
Rainbow	Gadsden	Roy Taylor	W.B. Connally
Talucah	Valhermoso		
	Springs	J.R. Buchanan	

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ALABAMA (cont.)

Trinity	Montgomery	John Ward
		Emory Polmar
		Bill Joseph
Woodland Heights	Selma	Bill Rose
York	York	John Jamison
		John Bell

ARKANSAS

First	Osceola	Arthur Rogers
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FLORIDA

Covenant	Ft. Lauderdale	Dan Sulc	Glenn Bondurant
Fairfield	Pensacola		James Thrasher
Faith	Gainesville	Leonard Van Horn	Pierre Vidal
First	Coral Springs	Ross Blair	Jack Hathaway
First	Wauchula	Russell Toms	Ben Kouns
Granada	Coral Gables	Bob Ostenson	Terry Gyger
		Hal McNeely	Donald Boerma
Kendall	Miami	Adrian Munzell	Keith Leslie
Continuing		Drennon Cottingham	Sam Privott
Lake Osborne	Lake Worth	Lynn Downing	Ralph Kinser
LeJeune	Miami	Leslie Thompson	William Swain
Madison	Madison	John Baldwin	Julian Gibson
McIlwain	Pensacola	Don Dunkerly	Murdoch Campbell
Memorial			Gerald Sovereign
New Philadelphia	Quincy	Tim Elder	Robert Smith
Pinelands	Miami	William Johnson	Glenn Buff
Seacrest Blvd.	Delray Beach	Joe Warner	John Van Sweden
Seminole	Tampa	Richard Watson	
Shenandoah	Miami		Ken Keyes
Spanish River	Boca Raton	David Nicholas	Russell Douglas
Trinity	Miami	Donald Esty	
Warrington	Warrington		Earl Griffith
Westminster	Milton	H.H. Harden	T.G. Nelson
Westminster	Tallahassee	John W. Terlowe	R.N. Wells

GEORGIA

Berachah	Augusta	Doug Miller	Don Sherow
Community			Jasper Green
Chapel in the Gardens	Garden City	Paul Rowland	Morris Glidewell
Chestnut Mt.	Chestnut Mt.	Morse UpDeGraff	Lloyd Strickland
Continuing	Decatur	Harold Blankenship	
Eastern Hts.	Savannah	Todd Allen	
Emmanuel	Atlanta	Eugene Hunt	
First	Macon	Jim Baird	John Clark
		George Mitchell	James Lawhorn
First	Sylvania	Oliver Hamby	
Smyrna	Smyrna	Charles Dunahoo	Bill Horton
			Ray Williams
Vineville	Macon	Henry Hope	John Blount

## KENTUCKY

Covenant	Cynthiana	Eurie Hayes Smith	G.J. Withers
Ebenezer	Woodford		James F. Miller
First	Louisville		Earle Glenn

## LOUISIANA

Delhi	Delhi	Paul Lipe	Lamar Bryant
Jackson St.	Alexandria	Mickey Schneider	Bill Cutter
Monte Sano	Baton Rouge	William Frisbee	Troy Chiek
Opelousas	Opelousas		Dr. W.G.Owen

## MARYLAND

Inverness	Baltimore	William Jones	Donald Mountain
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## MISSISSIPPI

Alta Woods	Jackson		W.J. Follen
Bethany	Gloster	Larry Mills	D.R. Smylie
Carthage	Carthage	Malcolm A. Bonner	
Crystal Springs	Crystal Springs		Arnold Lee
DeKalb	DeKalb	Joseph Armfield, Jr.	
Edwards	Edwards		R.R. Cannaoa
Ellisville	Ellisville	Doyle H. Hulse	
First	Bay Springs	Wilson Smith	
First	Brookhaven		Bill McMullen
First	Columbus		
First	Indianola	John Stodghill	Kenneth Carroll
First	Jackson	Don Patterson	Leon Hendrick
			M.B. Swayze
First	Kosciusko	Erskine Jackson	Ned Lacey
First	Lexington	Howard S. Allen	
First	Louisville	Thomas A. Cook	Charles Fair
First	Philadelphia	John A. Little	W.H. Murphy
First	Picayune	Billy G. Combs	
First	Taylorville	Ron Swafford	
First	Winona		T.H. Simpson
First	Woodville		J.E. Wilkerson
First	Yazoo City		Robert Cato
			J.R. Peaster
Forest	Forest	Wayne Herring	Billy Webb
Forest Grove	Ofahoma	Malcolm A. Bonner	
Leakesville	Leakesville		Sherman Powell
Mt. Olive	Mt. Olive	Joe Gardner, Jr.	G. M. Calhoun
Mt. Salus	Clinton		A.D. Owings
North Park	Jackson	Brister Ware	
Pearl	Jackson	Robert Fitler	Bob Beatty
Raymond	Raymond		
Sharon	Magee	Norman A. Bagby, Jr.	
Songalo	Vaiden	Claude Gamble	
St. Paul	Jackson	Gerald Morgan	Kenny McCain
Tchula	Tchula		
Westminster	Jackson		O.M.Anderson,Jr.

## NORTH CAROLINA

Antioch	Goldsboro	J. Lewis Baker (also Progressive)	
Brittain	Rutherfordton		
Dillingham	Barnardsville	Dan E. Carlton	Vernon Hutchins
Friendship	Black Mountain		William H. Hinkl
Hazelwood	Hazelwood	C.D. Murphy	Robert Jamison
Ivy Park	Weaverville		Oscar Whitson
Northside	Burlington	David E. Hamilton	Charles Parks
Progressive	Princeton	J. Lewis Baker (also	Antioch)
Story			
Memorial	Marion	Charles Yeargan	Robert Hawkins
Unity	Denver	Dewey D. Murphy	Bob Wilcox
			Perry Nixon
Waynesville	Waynesville	Harold Borchert	Jack Lyle

## SOUTH CAROLINA

Andrews	Andrews	Billy E. Rufus	
Beech Street	Gaffney	Guy N. Fowler	C.Q. Ramsey
			J.P. Bell, Jr.
Beersheba	York		Philip Clark, Jr.
			James Priddy
Bethel	Clover	Vernon West	
Center Point	Moore		
Covenant	Columbia	Harry Schutte	Nolan Armstrong
			John Goodman
Eau Claire	Columbia	H.R. Patterson	Bill Loner
Filbert	York	Wayne Rogers	Manning Biggers
First	Rock Hill	J.W. Everett	John M. Barnes
			C.A. Robinson, Jr.
Friendship	Laurens	Lonnie A. Priest	Cecil Pitts
Fulton	Greer		Mr. Mathis
Hopewell	Lesslie		Louis Huffstetler
Lebanon	Abbeville	K. Grady Love	Harold Jones
Lebanon	Winnsboro	John R. Thompson	W.T. Reid
Mt. Calvary	Roebuck	W. H. Benchoff	J.C. Turner
New Harmony	Gray Court		Boyd Stoddard
			Charles Stoddard
Olivet	McConnells	Sam B. Hoyt, Jr.	T.E. Burris
Reedy River	Greenville	J. Gaynor Phillips	W.B. Traynham, Jr.
Rock	Greenwood	Dr. M.A. Macdonald	
			W.L. Bross
Roebuck	Roebuck		Louie Campbell
Salem	Blair	Kenneth Barnes	C.H. Ragsdale, Jr.
Salem	Gaffney		Curtis Howell
Saluda	Saluda		H. J. Oxner
			Roger Crouch, Sr.
			W.C. Plowden, Jr.
Sardinia	Sardinia		
Scherer			
Memorial	Clover		B.D. Johnston
Second	Greenville	Gordon Reed	C.S. Patterson
Trinity	Chester	Curtis Medlin	Tom L. Bigham
Union	Salters	Charles Plowden, Jr.	J.D. Britton
Upper Long			
Cane	Abbeville	Charles B. Evans, Jr.	
Van Wyck	Van Wyck		W.H. Moore
Zion	Lowrys		Frank E. Abell

## TENNESSEE

Asbury	Johnson City	Frank Chapo	
Brainerd			
Hills	Chattanooga	Charles E. Turner	W.M. Houston
Eastland	Memphis	Robert L. Mabson	
Edgemont	Bristol	Henry Mueller	Henry Pobst
Hixson	Hixson	Herbert Broadwater	Don Redman
Johnson			
Memorial	Jackson	F.E. Manning, Jr.	
Lookout			
Valley	Chattanooga	Edwin L. Worstall, Jr.	
Midway	Jonesboro	Frank E. Smith	Earl Salts
Trinity	Alcoa	Basil Albert	D.W. Wilson
Wayside	Signal Mountain	G. David Russell	Richard Steensma
West Hills	Knoxville	F.C. Fowler, III	H.J. Stripling
Westminster	Chattanooga		Luther Allin, Jr.

## TEXAS

Fifth Street	Tyler	Dan McCown	Glenn Millham
First	Paris	Eric McQuitty	Gene Thielman
John Knox	Dallas		Ray Sanders
			Davis Lewis
Oaklawn	Houston	Thomas E. Hoolsema	

## VIRGINIA

Calvary	Norfolk	E.C. Cooley	James Merritt
Cedar Bluff	Cedar Bluff	John Sartelle	Thurman Raines
Coeburn	Coeburn		
Grace			
Covenant	Hampton	J. Burdette Slicer	Ralph Bollinger
Dickenson			
First	Haysi	John Whitner	
Reformed	Manassas		
West End	Hopewell	Kennedy Smartt	John Harrison
West			
Hopewell	Hopewell	R.I. Willis	S.S. Harrison
Westminster	Charlottesville		
Westminster	Roanoke	C.W. McNutt	J.R. Harrell

## WEST VIRGINIA

Kanawha			
Salines	Charleston		Oliver Blake
Lydia Robson			
Memorial	Charleston		James B. Miller
South			
Ruffner	Charleston	Kenneth E. Pollock	

## MINISTERS NOT REPRESENTING CHURCHES

Jimmy Lyons	Alabaster, Alabama
Paul Settle	Montgomery, Alabama
Ron Siegenthaler	Tuscumbia, Alabama
Jack Fisher	St. Petersburg, Florida
Allan Fleece	Tavares, Florida
Arnie Maves	Pensacola, Florida
W.A. McIlwain	Pensacola, Florida
Bill Smith	Gretna, Florida
James Sherwood	Atlanta, Georgia
David White	Decatur, Georgia
Ben Wilkinson	Decatur, Georgia
John Reeves	Moss Point, Mississippi
Jack Scott	Jackson, Mississippi
Thomas Cheely	Locust, North Carolina
Willis Harville	Summerville, South Carolina
F.E. Manning	Gaffney, South Carolina
Fred Thompson	Woodruff, South Carolina
Reuben Wallace	Laurens, South Carolina
Loren Watson	Greenville, South Carolina
Robert Balnicky	Knoxville, Tennessee
Michael Bolus	Johnson City, Tennessee
Jack Bolling	Kingsport, Tennessee
Frank Bratt	Atoka, Tennessee
Joe Morecraft	Bristol, Tennessee
Preston Sartelle	Bristol, Tennessee
Lardner Moore	Sherman, Texas
John McNicoll	Seabrook, Texas
Lem Tittsworth	Dallas, Texas
Aiken Taylor	Asheville, North Carolina
Morton Smith	Jackson, Mississippi



#### 4. Senior Advisors

Mr. Williamson recognized the following Senior Advisors:

Ruling Elders who are in agreement with our movement, but unable to attend:

Dr. Edwin A. Meeks	Mr. S.E. Witherspoon
Mr. T.J. McIlwaine	Mr. Ben M. Powell
Mr. R.C. Cropper	Mr. J.M. Vroon
Mr. Durell Carothers	Mr. C.T. Nalls

Ruling Elders in attendance:

Mr. Vernon W. Patterson	Mr. E.N. Odom
Col. Reed Flow	Mr. Robbins E. Wampler
Dr. C. Gregg Singer	Col Roy LeCraw
Mr. Warren R. Wilson	Mr. Arthur L. Rogers
Mr. P.Y. Matthews	Mr. Chester B. Hall
Mr. Willis Owens	Mr. Henry Boney

Teaching Elders who are in agreement, but unable to attend:

Dr. George Hurst	Dr. E.D. Patton
Dr. W.C. Robinson	Dr. J.E. Cousar
Dr. Ken Kepler	Dr. J.H. Longenecker
Dr. C. Darby Fulton	Dr. J. Layton Mauze
Dr. Vernon Crawford	Dr. John R. Richardson

Teaching Elders in attendance:

Dr. W.A. McIlwaine	Dr. Daniel Iverson
Dr. M.A. Macdonald	Dr. Fred E. Manning, Sr.
Rev. Lardner W. Moore	Dr. Roy Smith
Dr. E.H. Hamilton	Dr. Wick Broomall

#### 6. Guests from other denominations

Dr. G. Aiken Taylor presented guests from other denominations as follows:

##### Orthodox Presbyterian Church

Rev. LeRoy B. Oliver	Rev. Robley Johnston
Dr. Edmund P. Clowney	Rev. Allen Currey
Dr. George W. Knight	Rev. John Mitchell

##### Reformed Presbyterian Church Evangelical Synod

Rev. Donald J. McNair	Rev. DeWitt Watson
Rev. Nelson K. Malchus	Mr. Don Darling
Dr. Robert Rayburn	

Rev. Warren Myers, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Perth, Australia  
 Rev. Mputu Daulis, Presbyterian Church of Zaire  
 Dr. Paul Schrotenboer, Executive Secretary of the Reformed Ecumenial Synod

## 7. Call of the Convention

Mr. Williamson spoke of the sadness of our having to leave the Presbyterian Church in the United States; of the great challenges before us; of the comfort of the presence of Christ with us; and of the clear and strong call that we feel to raise up a fresh banner to Christ.

Over 260 Churches sent official representatives to a Convocation of Sessions held in Atlanta, Georgia, May 18-19, 1973. These representatives voted to recommend a new ecclesiastical entity in 1973. They issued a call for this Advisory Convention, which is to consider the issuing of a formal call and the planning of structures for the new denomination.

## 8. Election of Chairman and Clerk

The Rev. James Baird reported the following action of the Organizing Committee to the Convention: "That the Chairman Pro-Tem, and the Clerk Pro-Tem be elected as the permanent Chairman and the permanent Clerk of the Convention."

Mr. Jack Williamson, Chairman Pro-Tem, was elected unanimously as the permanent Chairman, and Dr. Morton Smith, Clerk Pro-Tem, was elected unanimously as permanent Clerk of the Convention.

## 9. Registration

The Rev. Paul Settle reported that as of that time there were 306 voting representatives registered, representing 165 churches. He also indicated that there were 379 observers and 7 press representatives present.

## 10. Docket

The Docket was adopted as presented.

## 11. Gifts

Mr. Williamson announced the receipt of two gifts by the Continuing Presbyterian Church. The first is a pocket Testament that was given by Mr. Robert Metcalf of the Second Presbyterian Church of Memphis, Tennessee. Mr. Metcalf has carried this Testament for a number of years, including a recent trip to the Holy Land, where it had been used in a worship service. It was also used at the time that the Steering Committee first came to the decision that it would ask for the various Sessions to call the Convocation of Sessions in Atlanta. It was used in worship services during the Convocation, and for the opening service of this Convention. It is to be placed in the archives of the Continuing Presbyterian Church.

The second gift is a handmade gavel by Mike Yates, nephew of Mr. Andy Anderson.

## 12. Constituting General Assembly called

The following resolution to call the Constituting General Assembly was unanimously adopted. (Mr. Kenneth Keyes moved its passage, and the Rev. Jimmy Lyons called for the question on the motion.)

## RESOLUTION TO CALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

WHEREAS, we are taught by the Holy Spirit in the Acts of the Apostles that it behooves ministers and representatives from particular churches to meet in general assembly when matters of Christianity are to be determined; and,

WHEREAS, our forebears in the Presbyterian Church in the United States assembled themselves in 1861 to declare the crown rights of Christ the King and Head of the Church and to constitute our branch of His Church; and,

WHEREAS, already more than 200 congregations have withdrawn themselves from said Church in prospect of being a part of a Continuing Presbyterian Church; and,

WHEREAS, the duly elected representatives of more than 250 sessions, meeting in Holy Convocation on May 18-19, 1973, in Atlanta, Georgia, adopted as their standard the Reaffirmations of 1973 which call for the rebirth of the church and the establishment in 1973 of a new ecclesiastical entity faithful to the Scriptures and the Reformed faith and obedient to the spiritual mission of the Church as given by our Lord in His Great Commission; and,

WHEREAS, said Convocation did call this advisory convention for the purpose of considering the issuance of a call for a General Assembly formally to constitute such a new ecclesiastical entity; and,

WHEREAS, we are firmly convinced that Almighty God has called us to continue the witness and work of our branch of the Church of Jesus Christ in a new structure.

## NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ we call to convene in holy assembly the duly elected representatives of sessions and ministers who subscribe to the text and commitment of the Reaffirmations of 1973 and who meet such other credential requirements as established by this Convention.

2. This Assembly is hereby called to convene at Briarwood Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, Alabama, on December 4, 1973, at 7 p.m. (CST)

3. The purpose of this Assembly shall be:

- a. To worship Almighty God in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- b. To petition God the Father that, by His Spirit this people be constituted under His Son as a reborn Presbyterian Church, and that their representatives there assembled be constituted the first General Assembly of this reborn church.
- c. To act upon all advice and recommendations laid before them by this Convention.
- d. To conclude such other matters as the Assembly itself may deem meet and proper in these premises.

13. Recess

The meeting was recessed at 9 p.m. with prayer led by Dr. Aiken Taylor, with special note of thanks for the lives of Mr. George Peters of the Cedar Springs Church of Knoxville, Tennessee, and for Dr. L. Nelson Bell, both of whom have been called home to the Lord.

SECOND DAY

WEDNESDAY

8:30 a.m.

The Convention reconvened at 8:30 a.m.

14. Worship

The Rev. Harold Borchert, pastor of the Waynesville, North Carolina, Presbyterian Church led the worship based on I John 3. The Minutes of the previous evening session were read and approved.

The Constitutional Documents Committee reported.

15. Book of Church Order

The Rev. Charles Dunahoo reported the thinking of the Committee on the Book of Church Order, indicating various principles being followed, and suggested changes. For information only, the following changes were discussed:

- a. New property chapter
- b. Deletion of the court known as the Synod.
- c. Strengthening church officers' qualifications
- d. Guarding against young people being elected to office
- e. General Assembly makeup--by Session and by Presbytery
- f. Establishing General Assembly non-perpetuating committees, rather than agencies or boards
- g. Requirements for changing constitutional documents
- h. No limited term of office for elders and deacons
- i. Emphasis on the spiritual mission of the Church
- j. Plans to guarantee the parity of elders at Presbytery level
- k. Ruling elders must meet Biblical standards

16. Doctrinal Standards

Dr. Morton Smith reported the thinking of the Committee on the Doctrinal part of the Constitution, clarifying the particular version of the Confession and Catechisms that is to be proposed.

No action was taken on the Constitutional Documents at this time.

17. Assembly Credentials

The Rev. Jim Baird presented the Proposed Credentials for the Constituting General Assembly. This was adopted as amended.

# CREDENTIALS FOR A CHURCH

A Session shall be entitled to send, as its duly chosen commissioners to the constituting General Assembly, one Ruling Elder for each 500 communicants or fraction thereof provided:

## I. Such congregation has:

- (a) renounced jurisdiction of, or withdrawn or separated from, or been dismissed from the Presbyterian Church in the United States; or some other denomination in the Reformed tradition. No pending civil or ecclesiastical contest of any such action shall invalidate the right to representation;
- (b) or, is independent of any ecclesiastical connection but desires now to relinquish this independent status and become a part of the Continuing Presbyterian Church;
- (c) or, is a member of some provisional Presbytery committed to the Continuing Presbyterian Church;

and

## II. Such Congregation has, by due Congregational action, signified its desire to be a member of the new denominational fellowship formed on the basis of the Constitutional Documents recommended by this Convention;

and

## III. Such Congregation has certified compliance herewith and such Session has certified the names of its commissioners, in writing, to the temporary office of the Continuing Presbyterian Church at 3436 Wellington Road, Montgomery, Alabama, two weeks prior to the constituting General Assembly.

# CREDENTIALS FOR MINISTERS

Any minister shall be eligible to be a commissioner to the constituting Assembly who is a member of a provisional presbytery which is committed to the new denominational fellowship to be formed on the basis of the Constitutional Documents recommended by this Convention;

and

The clerk of his presbytery so certifies in writing to the temporary office of the Continuing Presbyterian Church at least two weeks prior to the constituting General Assembly.

## 18. Principles for Organization

The Rev. Jim Baird presented the Principles for the Organization of the Assembly. These were adopted as amended. (The Convention, on the last day of its meeting, reconsidered these Principles and added others at that time. The final form of the Principles are to be found at that point in the Minutes.)

## 19. Assembly Organization Proposed

The proposed committee structure of the General Assembly was presented and read. The motion to establish the four permanent committees was made.

## 20. Recess

The Convention was recessed for lunch, being led in prayer by the Rev. Frank Smith, Midway Presbyterian Church, Johnson City, Tennessee.

The Convention re-convened at 1:45 p.m.

## 21. Minutes Approved

The Minutes of the morning session were read and approved.

## 22. Assembly Organization

The consideration of the organization of the Assembly under the four committees, with their duties, was resumed. After various amendments were made, the organization was adopted as a whole. (On the last day of the Convention, the Assembly organization was reconsidered, and certain additions made. For the final form of this organization, see the Minutes at that point, paragraph 42.)

## 23. Provisional Committees to be Elected

As part of the organizational structure, the Convention agreed to elect four provisional committees to begin service immediately, and to recommend that they become the Assembly's permanent committees, with a new class to be elected by the 1974 General Assembly; and that the organizing committee be continued until the General Assembly, and enlarged to include those members elected to the provisional committees; and that the Executive Committee of the organizing committee act as a nominating committee until the first General Assembly, filling vacancies that may occur, and establishing classes for the permanent committees.

## 24. Moderator

The Moderator of the General Assembly shall be elected at each General Assembly, and he shall not be a member of any committee, nor shall he, in any manner, supervise the functions thereof.

## 25. Insurance Program Approved

The Rev. Paul Settle presented a report on the proposed insurance

program. He introduced Mr. David Adams of Pacific Mutual Insurance Company to the Convention, who outlined a proposal for a life insurance, accidental death and dismemberment, medical care group plan. After a full presentation, with various questions answered, the Convention agreed to approve the Pacific Mutual Policy as the group policy for this period of the life of the Continuing Presbyterian Church movement, subject to review by the First General Assembly.

## 26. Mission to the World Report

The Rev. Donald Patterson reported on the Committee on the Mission to the World. He traced something of the history of the establishment of ECOE, and the developments between the Continuing Church and ECOE. The following recommendations were adopted by the Convention:

1. It is suggested that when the Committee on the Mission to the World is nominated that seven men now serving on the Board of ECOE be among the nominees, and that five men come from the General Assembly at large.
2. That the Advisory Convention request that ECOE invite the non-ECOE members of the Committee on the Mission to the World to serve as advisory members of ECOE until the formation of the denomination at the first General Assembly.
3. That the Advisory Convention request ECOE and the Board of the Presbyterian Evangelistic Fellowship to release to the Committee on the Mission to the World of the Continuing Presbyterian Church, at the request of the first General Assembly, ECOE's personnel (missionaries in the field, administrative secretary, office staff), all financial assets, office equipment, records and correspondence, mission projects, international contacts and records of prospective missionaries. This transfer would be made after the formation of the denomination at the first General Assembly. The first General Assembly is asked to concur with these requests.
4. That the Advisory Convention request the first General Assembly of the Continuing Presbyterian Church to request the Committee on the Mission to the World to assimilate advisory and ex-officio members of ECOE into the Committee's Advisory Board.

## 27. Recess

The Convention was recessed for dinner at 5:30 p.m. with prayer by Don Patterson.

## 28. Worship

The Convention re-convened at 7:30 p.m., being opened with a service of worship under the leadership of Rev. Kennedy Smartt, who presented a service entitled "What the Continuing Church Means to Me." The following participated: Messrs. Pierre Vidal, Roland Parton, Donald Sherow, Rev. Bill Bell, Rev. John McNicoll, Rev. Eric McQuitty, Miss. Glenda Delmar, Miss Ellen Barnett, Rev. and Mrs. Grady Simpson.

29. The business session was resumed at 8:40 p.m.

Dr. G. Aiken Taylor presented the following additional guests to the Convention: Rev. W.E. Moreau, Orthodox Presbyterian Church; Rev. Wilbur D. Townsend, Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship; Dr. J. Clyde Henry, UPUSA; and Rev. Thomas Llewelyn, UPUSA.

30. Mission to the United States Report

The Rev. John Neville presented the report on the work of the Mission to the United States, which was received as information.

31. Report on Ministerial Relations

The Rev. Paul Settle presented the report of the sub-committee on Ministerial Relations, which was received as information. Action on the recommendations of this Committee was deferred until the next day.

32. Bills and Overtures

The Rev. Charles Dunahoo presented the report of the Committee on Bills and Overtures.

#### BILLS AND OVERTURES COMMITTEE

At the June 1, 2 meeting of the Organizing Committee for the Continuing Church, the Bills and Overtures Committee dealt with several matters regarding the future status of Presbyterian Churchmen United, Concerned Presbyterians, the Steering Committee, Presbyterian Evangelistic Fellowship, and the Presbyterian Journal.

It was recommended that the two independent groups - PEF and the Journal - be given this resolution:

Be it resolved that the Presbyterian Journal be commended for its ministry, and encourage to continue as an independent church paper.

Be it resolved that the Presbyterian Evangelistic Fellowship be commended for its evangelistic endeavors, and be encouraged to continue its functions as an independent evangelistic fellowship.

The Organizing Committee recommends that the Steering Committee continue to function as an advisory committee until dissolved by the parent bodies, and when dissolved that they turn over records, materials, and assets to this committee or its successors.

Be it resolved that the Presbyterian Churchmen United and the Concerned Presbyterians be commended for their stands, and that they be encouraged to decide their own future.

The Committee recommends that the churches now separating from the PCUS form regional presbyteries where possible, and where not possible that they join with a presbytery already formed.

It is to be understood that the geographical boundaries of



presbyteries now forming will be subject to study by the forthcoming General Assemblies and subject to change in the future.

The Committee recommends to the Advisory Convention that relationship to presbyteries not be a factor in representation at the first General Assembly.

A sub-committee on Inter-Church Relations shall be established under the Committee on Administration for contact with other bodies of like faith. The following statement on inter-church relations was adopted.

#### Inter-Church Relations

- 1) The Continuing Presbyterian Church movement is being used by God to give rebirth to the conservative Biblical heritage which characterized the life of the Presbyterian Church in the United States when it was constituted a century ago. This movement is a part of the present resurgence of Biblical evangelism and Reformed theology throughout Christendom. We pray that the King and Head of the Church Himself will form us into a General Assembly by the end of 1973.
- 2) At that time the Continuing Presbyterian Church will take its place among the family of denominations, with a new identity, a new name, and a new constitution, with new legal status.
- 3) Churches emerging from the Presbyterian Church U.S. to form the Continuing Presbyterian Church move from and to a Presbyterian form of government. Ideally, separating churches should affiliate immediately with presbyteries. However, in some cases, a congregation may become independent temporarily, but they should not remain in this transitional status longer than necessary. New Testament churches are not independent, but are inter-related (Acts 16:4). The constitution of the Continuing Church will protect the local church's autonomy in such matters as election of pastors and officers, and the ownership of property.
- 4) The new church will be a separate and distinct Presbyterian denomination. It is not likely to commit itself to organic union with other denominations in the near future. At the same time it will attempt to extend its witness across the nation and to the uttermost part of the world.
- 5) The Continuing Presbyterian Church shall encourage fellowship with all evangelicals who believe the entire Bible to be the verbally inspired and inerrant Word of God. We eagerly desire fraternal relations and associations with those who adhere to the distinctives of the Reformed Faith.

The Committee recommends that a temporary Administrative Office be established in Montgomery, Alabama, provided Presbyterian Churchmen United gives consent to the use of their present office for this.

(Note from the Presbyterian Churchmen United Executive Committee: If the Advisory Convention approves, the PCU office in Montgomery will be redesignated as the Administrative Office for the Continuing Presbyterian Church, effective August 9, 1973, and all equipment and furnishings and relevant records will be given to the CPC.)

We recommend that the Rev. Paul Settle and the Rev. John Richards be hired at, at least, their present salaries. (The Executive Committee is to be responsible for job descriptions for these two men.) For the information of the convention, the following monthly cost of the salary and offices of each of these men is listed.

Dr. John E. Richards		Rev. Paul Settle	
Salary	\$1,400 per month	Salary, housing and	
Secretary	500 per month	child allowance	\$1,250 per month
Off. Exp.	1,000 per month	Secretarial and	
	<u>\$2,900</u>	office costs	<u>2,500</u> per month
			<u>\$3,750</u>

The Executive Committee is asked to take steps so as to preserve the reports made by the Steering Committee to the Convocation of Sessions, and to see that these are placed in the hands of the proper permanent committees when they are appointed. It is recommended that all the committees of the Steering Committee and the Mission to the United States by encouraged to continue their activities in cooperation with the Organizing Committee.

The Committee asks that the Advisory Convention approve and recommend to the first General Assembly of the Continuing Presbyterian Church that it adopt the Constitutional Standards composed of these documents: The Westminster Confession of Faith proposed for the Continuing Presbyterian Church, published by the Steering Committee for a Continuing Presbyterian Church, and the unamended Westminster Larger and Westminster Shorter Catechisms; and the Book of Church Order of 1933 with amendments regarding changes in its court structure suitable to the new denomination such as; the deletion of Synods, the possible local representation at General Assembly, rather than by Presbytery; the specific property statement, as circulated by the Steering Committee and now printed in the 1933 edition for the Continuing Presbyterian Church.

Recommendations: that

- 1) The Steering Committee function as an advisory body until it is dissolved by the four parent bodies;
- 2) Churches separating from the PCUS form regional presbyteries where possible, or that they join a presbytery already formed;
- 3) Relationship to presbytery not be a factor in the first General Assembly;

- 4) A sub-committee on Inter-church Relations be established for contact with other bodies of like faith, and that the above statement on Inter-church Relations be adopted;
- 5) An Administrative Office be established in Montgomery, Alabama, using the offices of Presbyterian Churchmen United, if the way be clear;
- 6) Dr. John Richards and Rev. Paul Settle be hired as interim administrators for the Continuing Presbyterian Church movement, and that their salaries be set at least at their present levels.
- 7) All the committees of the Steering Committee, and the Mission to the United States continue to function in cooperation with the Organizing Committee.
- 8) The Advisory Convention recommend to the first General Assembly that it adopt the following constitutional documents:
  - a. The Westminster Confession of Faith (as published by the Steering Committee)
  - b. The unamended Larger Catechism
  - c. The unamended Shorter Catechism
  - d. The Book of Church Order, 1933 edition, with amendments as noted above.
- 9) The Convention directs the Organizing Committee to prepare a Commissioner's Handbook to be distributed to all churches and ministers eligible to participate in the Constituting General Assembly by Nov. 1, 1973. All resolutions and proposals from either churches or ministers eligible to attend the Assembly should be in the hands of the Administrative Office by Oct. 15, 1973, for inclusion in the Handbook.

The following amendment failed passage. Add #6 to the section on Inter-Church Relations, "While it is clearly understood that the Continuing Church is not seeking to enter into union negotiations with other denominations, we do wish to maintain contact with other members of the Reformed and Presbyterian family. To this end, be it resolved that the Committee on Administration be designated the Inter-church Relations Committee, and be authorized to attend the meetings which is being set in Atlanta, Georgia on Sept. 12-14 immediately following, sponsored by the National Presbyterian and Reformed Fellowship." The following requested that their names be recorded as having voted for this motion: John Clelland, Ken Smartt, Paul Settle, Fred Manning, Sr., Bob Balnick, Harrison Harnden and Ken Ironside.

The report on Bills and Overtures was adopted as a whole, as amended.

### 33. Financial Report

Mr. Kenneth Keyes presented a report on finances, the recommendations were adopted.

#### STEWARDSHIP, BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

1. That the Miami bank account of Concerned Presbyterians, Inc. (including the Undergirding Fund for the Continuing Church) and the bank account of the Steering Committee be consolidated effective August 1 in an account to be designated: Concerned Presbyterians' CONTINUING CHURCH FUND.
2. That we ask Presbyterian Evangelistic Fellowship and the Presbyterian Journal to continue their \$360 per month contributions to the Fund for the remaining months of 1973.
3. That our Organizing Committee Chairman, W.J. Williamson, send a letter to all churches which have withdrawn and to churches which will withdraw in the future stressing the importance of every church allocating as large a sum as possible during the remaining months of 1973 to the Continuing Church Fund and to remit monthly to enable us to meet our obligations as they occur.
4. That the Organizing Committee Chairman ask the Budget Committee of every church to allocate as large a sum as possible to assembly benevolences during 1974 to enable the new church to carry out its overall mission.
5. That the expenses of delegates to the Advisory Convention and the commissioners to the first General Assembly be paid by their respective churches since the new church will not have sufficient funds to defray such a large expense.
6. That the Stewardship, Budget and Finance Committee (hereafter to be called the Administrative Committee) be asked to interview potential candidates for the position of Business Administrator-Treasurer and that the Executive Committee be authorized to employ an Administrator-Treasurer effective December 1st.

These were the recommendations of the Stewardship, Budget and Finance Sub-Committee to the Organizing Committee. They were adopted by the Organizing Committee and they now become the recommendations of the Organizing Committee to this Convention.

When this report was prepared on July 25th, a total of 195 churches had withdrawn from the Presbyterian Church, U.S. Based on the Statistical Reports to the 1972 General Assembly (representing the calendar year 1971) these churches had a total membership of 38,643. Their gifts to Benevolence causes totaled \$1,958,980 (\$50.59 per capita) and their contributions to all causes totaled \$7,212,703 (\$186.65 per capita). Comparable figures for the Presbyterian Church US as a whole for 1971 showed \$33.62 per capita for

benevolences and \$154.46 per capita total contributions. On a percentage basis the members of the separating churches gave fifty per cent more per capita to benevolences than the average for the entire church, and their per capita total contributions were twenty and one-half per cent higher than the average for the entire church.

We cannot stress too much the importance of every separating church contributing as liberally as possible to the Continuing Presbyterian Church during the remaining months of 1973 in order that it may have adequate working capital with which to lavish our new denomination. And it is most essential that all separating churches in preparing their 1974 budgets designate as large a share as possible to undergird the programs of the Continuing Presbyterian Church during 1974.

The Administrative Committee which you will be appointing at this Convention will have a Stewardship, Budget and Finance Subcommittee which will probably provide you with some guidelines as to how your benevolence contributions for 1974 might be apportioned to our world mission program, our church extension and home mission program, our education program and our administrative costs.

During recent years many Presbyterians have curtailed their giving to benevolences because they could not in good conscience support what those in control of the PCUS were doing with benevolence funds. Many thousands of dollars of the Lord's money have been withheld or diverted to other than denominational causes. Our people should now be encouraged to give as liberally as possible to support the programs of the new Church.

#### 34. Judicial Business

Judge Leon Hendrick presented the report of Judicial Business Committee which was received as information, with the following recommendation adopted, "The Convention authorizes the Judicial Business Committee to proceed to the incorporation of the movement now under the name Continuing Presbyterian Church, and that when a permanent name is adopted at the Assembly the charter be amended."

#### 35. Recess

The Convention was recessed at 10:30 p.m. with prayer by the Rev. Todd Allen.

THIRD DAY

THURSDAY

The meeting reconvened at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday.

36. Worship

The worship service was conducted by Ruling Elder John Barnes of Rock Hill, South Carolina.

37. Minutes Approved

The Minutes of Wednesday afternoon and evening sessions were read and approved.

38. Ministerial Relations

The Rev. Paul Settle presented the recommendations of the Ministerial Relations Sub-Committee, which were adopted. The entire report and recommendations are included here:

MINISTERIAL RELATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

The Ministerial Relations Sub-Committee is serving the Continuing Presbyterian Church movement in the following ways:

1. Ministerial Placement: From the office of the Executive Secretary of Presbyterian Churchmen United, Montgomery, Ala., Ministerial Data Forms are sent to Pulpit Nominating Committees who request this service.

To date, more than 200 ministers have Data Forms on file with the PCU office. Forms are filed as follows:

- a. Ministers who are in the PCUS
- b. Ministers who have separated from the PCUS
- c. Ministers who have indicated that they wish to move soon to a new field of service
- d. Ministers with other denominational connections who desire service in the SE USA.

Literally scores of forms have been shared with Pulpit Nominating Committees, and a large number of these have resulted in the Lord's uniting the minister and a church in a new pastoral relationship.

Copies of the Data Forms are on file also in the Mission to the US office in Atlanta.

2. Advice and Counsel: Divestiture by means of an Administrative process is not recognized as legal or constitutional. Ministers who have been divested by this means may be reinstated simply with the use of the Ministerial Obligation form or other similar means.

Ministers who are divested by means of a Judicial process, as required by the Book of Church Order, may be reinstated by due process.

The forms (to be found in the Appendix) represent:

- a. Ministerial Obligation - to be signed by ministers who have separated from the PCUS, upon their acceptance into a new CPC provisional presbytery.
- b. Process of Reinstatement - to be followed by new presbyteries
- c. Data Form - to be filled out by ministers who wish to co-operate with the Continuing Presbyterian Church Administrative Office in its efforts to facilitate communication between churches and ministers.

### 3. Recommendations

- a. That the Process of Reinstatement be adopted and recommended to provisional presbyteries.
- b. That the Ministerial Obligation be adopted and recommended to provisional presbyteries.
- c. That the CPC Administrative Office and the Mission to the US office be authorized to assist with Ministerial Placement.
- d. That ministers in the CPC movement be requested and encouraged to complete the Data Form and file it with the CPC Administrative Office, Montgomery, Ala.

### 39. Provisional Committees

The following Provisional Assembly Committees were elected. The convener of each Committee, as designated by the Chairman of the Convention, is noted.

#### Administrative Committee

##### Teaching Elders

Gordon Reed	S.C. Convener
Joe Everett	S.C.
Bob Ostenson	Fla.
James Patterson	Tenn.
E.C. Cooley	Va.
Charles Dunahoo	Ga.

##### Ruling Elders

Bill Joseph	Ala.
John Spencer	Ala.
Sam Smith	N.C.
Russ Johnson	Miss.
Herman Quantz	La.
Jules Vroon	Fla.

#### Judicial Business

##### Teaching Elders

Todd Allen	Ga.
Charles McNutt	Va.

##### Ruling Elders

Leon Hendrick	Miss. Convener
John Glasser	Ala.
Ralph Langford	Ala.
James Campbell	Va.
John Barnes	S.C.

#### Mission to the World

##### Teaching Elders

Don Patterson	Miss. Convener
Arnie Maves	Fla.
William McIlwain	Fla.
Jim Lyons	Ala.
James Baird	Ga.
Fred Fowler	Tenn.

##### Ruling Elders

Jay Wood	Ga.
Harry Musser	W.Va.
Hugh Smith	Ala.
Roger DeHaven	Tex.
G.K. Gunderson	Va.
Gerald Sovereign	Fla.

## Mission to the United States

Teaching Elders

Cecil Williamson	Ala. Convener
Frank Barker	Ala.
P.O. Sartelle	Tenn.
John Neville	N.C.
William Jones	Md.
William Frisbee	La.

Ruling Elders

Bill Stevenson	Ga.
Glenn Bondurant	Fla.
W.B. Gibbs, Jr.	N.C.
Robert Walters	Tex.
Robert Kresge	W.Va.
Foster Wilkinson	Miss.

## Christian Education

Teaching Elders

Harold Borchert	N.C.
Harry Schutte	S.C.
Harry Miller	Ala.
John Oliver	Ga.
Paul Kooistra	Miss.
Michael Schneider	La.

Ruling Elders

Hugh Cunningham	Fla. Convener
Donald Boerema	Fla.
John Hunter	S.C.
Frank Horton	Miss.
Roland Parton	N.C.
Robert Glover	Tex.

(Note: The members of these Committees are to meet with the Organizing Committee until the First General Assembly. The first meeting is set for the Ramada Inn, Atlanta Airport, Sept. 7-8, 1973, beginning at 1 p.m.)

## 40. Convener of Assembly

Ruling Elder Jack Williamson was elected Convener of the First General Assembly.

## 41. Temporary Clerk of the Assembly

Teaching Elder Morton H. Smith was elected as Temporary Clerk of the First General Assembly.

## 42. Assembly Organization

The Rev. Charles Dunahoo presented the report of the Organizing Committee on the handling of Budget and Financial matters, which had been referred to the Committee by the Convention earlier. (See paragraph 22).

The previously adopted report on the Organization of the Assembly was reconsidered and adopted as amended as follows:

## COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION

Report to Advisory Convention of the Continuing Presbyterian Church. The Convocation of Sessions, Atlanta, May 18-19, charged the Organizing Committee to recommend a General Assembly structure agreeable to the Scriptures and the intent of the Westminster Confession of Faith and Book of Church Order.



#### A. Principles for the Organization of the Assembly

1. The Church is responsible for carrying out the Great Commission.
2. The work of the church as set forth in the Great Commission is one work, being implemented on the General Assembly level through our equally essential committees.
3. It is the responsibility of every member and every member congregation to support the whole work of the denomination as they be led in their conscience held captive to the Word of God.
4. It is the responsibility of the General Assembly to evaluate needs and resources, and to act on priorities for the most effective fulfillment of the Great Commission.
5. The Church recognizes the right of individuals and congregations to labor through other agencies in fulfilling the Great Commission.
6. The initiative for carrying out the Great Commission belongs at the local and presbytery levels, and the Assembly is responsible to encourage and promote this.
7. The Assembly's committees are to serve and not to direct any church judicatories.
8. The Committees serve the Church through the duties assigned by the General Assembly.
9. The Assembly's committees are to include proportionate representation of all presbyteries, wherever possible.
10. The committees are to be established on the basis of a parity between teaching and ruling elders.
11. A nominating committee of 12 ruling elders and 12 teaching elders is to be elected annually by the General Assembly from a slate selected by the Presbyteries. This committee is to present the nominations for Assembly committees to the next meeting of the Assembly from a slate of men nominated by the Presbyteries.
12. The Assembly committees are to be made of three classes of four men each.
13. The General Assembly establishes personnel salaries after hearing recommendations from the Committee.

#### B. Four Permanent Assembly Committees and Duties

##### Committee on Administration (12 members)

1. The Administration Committee shall nominate to the General Assembly a Stated Clerk and a Business Administrator.
2. The Stated Clerk should be preferably a ruling elder, who may serve part time or full time as needed, to reside where he desires. The General Assembly shall provide office help for him. His duties are: a) handle records; b) maintain history; c) serve as parliamentarian; d) handle all correspondence; e) the Committee shall serve as a clearing house for vacant churches and available ministers.

3. The Business Administrator shall be a full time employee, preferably not a teaching elder. He shall maintain the denominational business office, administer all the business affairs of the Assembly, act as treasurer of this committee, handle annuity and insurance. He is to be answerable to the Committee on Administration of the General Assembly.
4. The Committee on Administration shall review the budget requests of the three other committees; shall consider the requests of each committee as it relates to the budget requests of other committees, to needs and to opportunities, and shall recommend a budget for each of the three committees to the General Assembly. Each committee shall be responsible to raise the financial support for its work and distribute its funds through its own treasurers elected by each committee. It shall be clearly understood that churches and individual donors shall be free to designate their gifts to the causes they desire to support and that there shall be no equalization of gifts so designated.
5. The suggested budget of the Committee on Administration shall be presented to the General Assembly. Upon adoption by the General Assembly, funds for the operation of the Committee on Administration shall be raised by this Committee and distributed through its own treasurer.
6. This Committee is to operate the insurance and annuity program. It shall recommend salaries of personnel to the General Assembly. It shall supervise the work of the Business Administrator.
7. The office of Stated Clerk and of Business Administrator may not be held by the same individual.
8. There shall be a Judicial Business Committee of seven men, selected by the General Assembly, to advise the General Assembly on judicial matters, and to assist the Stated Clerk on such matters between Assemblies.

Committee on Mission to the World  
(12 members)

1. This Committee shall nominate a Coordinator to each General Assembly and recommend his salary to the Committee on Administration.
2. This Committee shall advise the General Assembly of missionary needs abroad.
3. It shall recommend ways of meeting these needs abroad.
4. It is to assist presbyteries and local churches to recruit missionaries.
5. It shall function as a sending agency for missionaries not otherwise accredited, and the support agency for missionaries not otherwise sustained.
6. It shall promote the missionary spirit across the denomination.
7. It shall interpret the missionary program to the denomination.
8. It shall assist missionaries in their visas and recognition by foreign countries.
9. It shall maintain liaison with the missionaries, but not to function as administrator of the local program of the individual missionary, and it shall work in loving cooperation with them in developing their work.

10. It shall coordinate the work of presbyteries in the endorsement of military and institutional chaplains, and shall represent chaplains in relation to military and civil authorities.

Committee on Mission to the U.S.  
(12 members)

1. The Committee shall nominate a Coordinator to each General Assembly and recommend his salary to the Committee on Administration.
2. The Committee shall study the mission needs in the nation, and inform the Assembly of these needs.
3. Mission work carried on outside the boundaries of the denomination shall be carried on under the supervision of this Committee until such work can be integrated into regular presbytery structure.
4. The Committee shall cooperate with presbyteries in their mission work.
5. The Committee shall promote financial aid where needed and other mission support throughout the denomination.
6. The Committee shall interpret the mission program to the denomination.
7. The Committee shall maintain liaison with the Mission to the U.S. Committees of all the judicatories.

Committee on Christian Education and Publications  
(12 members)

1. The Committee shall nominate a Coordinator to each General Assembly and recommend his salary to the Committee on Administration.
2. The Committee shall publish official publications of the denomination.
3. The Committee shall study and recommend Christian Education curricula programs to the denomination.
4. The Committee shall study the possibility of developing curricula by the denomination itself.
5. The Committee shall recommend plans for promoting: Sunday School, Christian Education Work, youth work, men's work, women's work, camp and conference programs, etc.
6. The Committee shall maintain a liaison with other Christian publishers.
7. The Committee shall continue to study and make recommendations to the denomination regarding our needs in schools, colleges, seminaries, and similar institutions.

C. (See paragraph 23 for the election of provisional committees and paragraph 24 for the election of Moderator.)

43. Christian Education

The Rev. Paul Settle presented the report of the Christian Education Sub-Committee, which was adopted as a whole as amended.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

The Christian Education Subcommittee of the Steering Committee for a Continuing Presbyterian Church has been actively engaged in planning for the following ministries in the reborn Church: curriculum, Women of the Church, Youth Work, and Men's Work. Some other areas of responsibility are: Leadership Training, Camps and Conferences, Officer Training, and Publications.

The Steering Committee adopted the recommendation of the Subcommittee and approved the Christian Education literature published by Great Commission Publications (the publishing arm of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church), and recommended this literature to Sessions in the Continuing Church movement.

A special resource/advisory group of women has been preparing a manual, workbook, and circle Bible studies for the Women of the Church. Two circle Bible study booklets have been published and two others are in editorial process. More than 200 Presbyterian women are meeting Wednesday, August 8, to consider proposals for women's work and to elect an interim committee to complete a manual and workbook for the approval of this committee and recommendation to the first General Assembly.

Recommendations concerning ministries for Men and Youth, and the other areas of responsibility assigned to this committee and the provisional Committee for Christian Education and Publications, will be prepared this fall for presentation to the first General Assembly.

Recommendations to the Advisory Convention: the Subcommittee recommends that:

1. The Advisory Convention authorize the Chairman of the Subcommittee and/or the Coordinator of the provisional Committee for Christian Education and Publications to consult with Great Commission Publications concerning possible cooperative efforts in the future:
2. Sessions be encouraged to make a systematic study of the Church's doctrinal standards as a necessary step toward fulfilling their responsibility to oversee the Christian Education program of the local church, and the Advisory Convention instruct the provisional Committee for Christian Education to recommend as soon as possible study materials for church officers.
3. Sessions be encouraged to devise a curriculum to fit the particular needs and opportunities of their local congregations.
4. Sessions be encouraged to consider Great Commission Publications materials for use in the congregation as soundly Reformed and evangelical.
5. Sessions be advised of the suitability of CE materials published by firms other than Great Commission Publications for use in certain areas of study.
6. The Circle Bible Study booklets on Philipians and I Peter be recommended for use to the Women of the Church.

7. The election of the following women to the Women of the Church interim advisory committee be approved:

Mrs. Gordon Reed	S.C. Chairman
Mrs. Kitty High	Fla.
Mrs. Frank Smith	Tenn.
Mrs. Jane Simonean	S.C.
Mrs. F.D. Ingebretsen	Miss.
Mrs. Paul Settle	Ala.

9. The Women of the Church ministry at the denominational level is to be carried on through a sub-committee of the Committee of Christian Education, and that such Women of the Church Sub-Committee be an advisory and research committee only.

44. Publicity

Mr. Hugh Cunningham presented a report on publicity, which was received as information.

45. Resolution on NPRF Representation

Mr. Jack Williamson and Dr. Aiken Taylor were named as official observers at the forthcoming Atlanta meeting of the Churches participating in the National Presbyterian and Reformed Fellowship to be held in Atlanta in September.

46. All Believers Welcome

It was resolved that the Continuing Presbyterian Church movement actively seek out and welcome into denominational fellowship kindred believers unable to worship God in the wholeness of Reformed theology.

47. All Races Welcome

It was resolved that the Continuing Presbyterian Church movement welcome fellow believers in Christ regardless of race.

48. Ecumenical Relations

It was resolved that the ecumenical connections of the Continuing Presbyterian Church be limited to distinctly evangelical organizations, and that no consideration be given to affiliation with the National Council of Churches or the World Council of Churches, now or at any time in the future.

49. Giving Resolution

The Advisory Convention adopted a resolution for presentation at the first General Assembly that it challenge each congregation to give as much money for spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those outside the local church as it spends on its congregational expenses.

50. The following resolution of thanks was adopted:

WHEREAS, the primary purpose of the Church is to glorify God in its worship and work, and,

WHEREAS, God has given this Advisory Convention the privilege of calling for a General Assembly of a Presbyterian Church faithful to the Scripture and the Reformed faith and obedient to the Great Commission, and,

WHEREAS, God has been pleased to use the instrumentality of His servants in organizing this Advisory Convention and attending to the duties necessary to its functioning to His glory;

Therefore, be it resolved that this Advisory Convention express its thanks to Almighty God for His grace to us, and

Be it further resolved that this Advisory Convention express its thanks to Almighty God for

1. The diligence of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Borchert and his arrangements committee in effectively planning and flawlessly performing the duties of arrangements necessary to this Convention.
2. The faithfulness of Dr. John Richards, Rev. Paul Settle, and the office staffs in Perry, Georgia, and Montgomery, Alabama, in serving God and this part of the Church of Jesus Christ in performing administrative functions necessary to the planning and conducting of this Advisory Convention.
3. The effectiveness and efficiency of the Moderator, Jack Williamson, and the Stated Clerk, Morton Smith, in conducting the business of this Advisory Convention.
4. The labours of the ladies who co-ordinated the successful efforts of the ladies of the Continuing Presbyterian Church.
5. Those from the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and Reformed Presbyterian Church Evangelical Synod for their gracious assistance to the Organizing Committee and presence at the Advisory Convention.

"To God be the glory both now and forever..."

51. Minutes

The Minutes of the morning session were read and approved.

52. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned with the singing of "Blest Be the Tie that Binds", and the benediction was pronounced by Dr. John E. Richards.

## A P P E N D I X

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## MINISTERIAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

## Regularizing Ministerial Credentials

As congregations and ministers have separated from the Presbyterian Church US, the issue of ordination credentials has been raised as circumstances in some cases have left ministers without an official relationship to Church bodies authorized to establish and oversee such a relationship.

In Presbyterian polity, the authorization to administer the sacraments and perform other specific responsibilities of the ministry is granted by the presbytery in ordination. The privileges associated with the office of the ministry are recognized by the state which grants the power to perform civil marriages and the privilege to occupy tax-free housing, whether or not as the pastor of a church.

In the course of recent events, some ministers have found it necessary to continue performing the duties of their office after their ordination was suspended by the presbyteries to which they formerly belonged and before presbyteries were established that could receive them and reinstate their credentials.

In other cases, ministers have sought to provide for the regularization of their ordination credentials by participating in the formation of a presbytery with which they then established membership.

Still others have been received by presbyteries which, in turn, were formed out of the voluntary association of ministers and congregations previously independent. Such reception sometimes, but not always, has been accompanied by an appropriate act of reinstatement.

In the interest of uniformity, as well as of decency and order, it would seem to be desirable that the Continuing Church provide appropriate guidelines to all presbyteries for the regularizing of ministerial credentials. To this end the following procedures should be adopted. (The occasion would appropriately be one in which the presiding officer is a Ruling Elder especially appointed by vote of the assembled presbytery.)

1. As soon as practicable, presbyteries formed under the provisions of the Book of Church Order, Chapter XV, should declare themselves by formal resolution to be constituted agreeably to the Word of God and the Constitution of the (Continuing Church when it is named).
2. An appropriate ceremony should be devised in which all the ministers of the presbytery publicly reaffirm their ordination obligations by signing a Book of Obligation in which are transcribed the obligations required of ministers at their ordination, following by an ex animo statement as provided in BOCO, Ch. XV (Par. 75).

3. Following the signing of the Book of Obligation, the presiding officer should make a declaration in the following, or like, form: "I do now pronounce and declare that (listing the ministers by name) have been both recognized and reaffirmed in their calling as ordained Ministers of the Gospel agreeably to the Word of God and the Constitution of the (Continuing Church as named), and as such continue to be entitled to all the rights and privileges appertaining to their office, as members of the Presbytery of \_\_\_\_\_."
4. The entire proceedings should be concluded with prayer.
5. Unless there are pressing reasons to the contrary, ministers in good standing as members of other denominations should not be received by transfer of their membership until the above procedures have been followed.

## MINISTERIAL OBLIGATION

Believing the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice; and

Sincerely receiving and adopting the Confession of Faith (in the edition published in 1973 by the Steering Committee for a Continuing Presbyterian Church) and the Westminster Larger and Shorter Catechisms, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scripture; and

Promising that if at any time I find myself out of accord with any of the fundamentals of this system of doctrine I will, on my own initiative, make known to this presbytery the change that has taken place in my views since assuming my ordination vows; and

Giving assent to the basic document known as the Book of Church Order (1933 and presently being revised); and

Having been induced as far as I know my own heart to seek the office of the Holy ministry from a love to God and a sincere desire to promote His glory in the Gospel of His Son; and

Promising to be zealous and faithful in maintaining the truths of the Gospel and the purity and peace of the church, whatever persecution or opposition may arise to me on this account; and

Promising to be faithful and diligent in the exercise of my duties as a Christian and a minister of the Gospel, whether personal or relative, private or public; and to endeavor by the grace of God to adorn the profession of the Gospel in my manner of life, and to walk with exemplary piety before the people of God; therefore

I, \_\_\_\_\_ do sincerely receive and submit to the above obligation as a just and true exhibition of my faith and principals, and do resolve and promise to exercise my ministry in conformity and duty.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Ordained by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date ordained: \_\_\_\_\_

THE  
CONTINUING  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

34

MINISTER'S PERSONAL DATA FORM

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Office) \_\_\_\_\_

AGE \_\_\_\_\_ WIFE'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CHILDREN - Please list their names and ages on the back of this sheet.

EDUCATION

College _____	Degree _____
Seminary _____	Degree _____
Other _____	

GIFTS - Please check the areas of service in which you feel God has made you most effective:

Preaching _____	Administration _____	Leadership Training _____
Visitation _____	Counseling _____	Recreation _____
Evangelism _____	Christian Ed. _____	Camp and Conference _____
Teaching _____	Youth Work _____	Other _____

EXPERIENCE - Please list the churches and presbyteries in which you have served, and the dates for each period, on the back of this sheet.

HOW LONG have you been in your present position? \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU POSSIBLY INTERESTED in another call at this time? \_\_\_\_\_

SALARY AND BENEFITS - Please indicate your present financial arrangements:

\$ 6000.00 - 8000.00 _____	MAF _____	Book Allowance _____
9000.00 - 10000.00 _____	Vacation _____	Manse _____
10000.00 - 12000.00 _____	Auto. Allowance _____	Utilities _____
12000.00 - 15000.00 _____	Med. Insurance _____	Other _____
15000.00 and above _____		

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS do you prefer?

Urban \_\_\_\_\_ Suburban \_\_\_\_\_ Rural \_\_\_\_\_ North \_\_\_\_\_ East \_\_\_\_\_ West \_\_\_\_\_

Midwest \_\_\_\_\_ Atlantic States \_\_\_\_\_ Gulf Coast States \_\_\_\_\_

Border States \_\_\_\_\_ Mid-South \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU WILLING TO:

Serve a multiple church field? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Organize and develop a new church? Yes? \_\_\_\_\_ No? \_\_\_\_\_

DOCTRINAL VIEWS

Which system best describes your theological views:

Reformed \_\_\_\_\_ Arminian \_\_\_\_\_ Lutheran \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you subscribe to the Presbyterian form of church government?

Yes? \_\_\_\_\_ No? \_\_\_\_\_ Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you sincerely adopt as containing the system of faith taught in Holy Scripture, the Westminster Confession of Faith \_\_\_\_\_ The Larger Catechism \_\_\_\_\_ The Shorter Catechism \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Please give a brief statement of your view of the mission of the Church:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

CHILDREN:

PLACES OF SERVICE:

PLEASE GIVE ANY OTHER INFORMATION you feel might be of interest to a Pulpit Nominating Committee:

TO ALL WHO MAY RECEIVE THIS DATA FORM: Completion of this form indicates the minister's desire to cooperate in efforts to facilitate pastoral changes among ministers and churches. Please treat the information given as CONFIDENTIAL. Thank you.

FURTHER INFORMATION may be received from the Rev. Paul G. Settle, Administrative Office, the Continuing Presbyterian Church, 3436 Wellington Road, Montgomery, Alabama 36106.

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