

stitutional documents, which is to be returned to the next Assembly.

Constitutional Documents Committee dismissed, §6-107, (4); p. 108.

Referred to the Sub-Committee on Judicial Business § 7-41, III, 22; pp. 104-105.

### 6-107

#### From the Constitutional Documents Committee Report to the Sixth General Assembly

The Constitutional Documents Committee has done two areas of work during the past year. The first regards the study edition of the Confession of Faith and Catechisms with Scriptural footnotes.

In compliance with the Fifth General Assembly we have prepared a study edition of the doctrinal standards using the edition of the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland with the three changes in our edition being substituted with the Scriptural proof texts of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church edition.

The Christian Education and Publications Committee has prepared the paste on corrections and now have the study guide available for \$2.00.

The Committee has also worked with the special Editorial Sub-Committee in the assignment of preparing a complete and edited addition of the *Book of Church Order* in the near future. A partial report of the progress is contained in this report.

Slow progress is being made with the Scriptural proof text for the *Book of Church Order* and it is apparent that such an assignment cannot be completed until the editorialized copy is in hand. This is in accord with the *Minutes* of the 1977 General Assembly, page 189.

#### Recommendations:

(1) That members take advantage of the *Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms* with Scriptural proof texts, study edition and make suggestions to the Constitutional Documents Committee regarding additions or deletions.

Referred to the Committee for Christian Education and Publications. § 7-41, III, 23; p. 105.

### REPORT OF THE AD INTERIM THEOLOGICAL COMMITTEE ON DIVORCE

#### 6-109 Postponement of the Report of the Committee to Study Divorce

The Report of the Ad-Interim Committee to Study Divorce was postponed until the Seventh General Assembly. *Adopted.*

The task given the Ad Interim Theological Committee on Divorce was two-fold:

- 1) To review and re-study Part II of the Constitutional Documents Committee Report entitled "Interpretation of I Timothy 3:2, "the husband of one wife," and report to the Sixth General Assembly;
- 2) To consider and make recommendation concerning Overture 12 from North Georgia Presbytery to the Fifth General Assembly:  
 "Whereas: God's Word enjoins His people to recognize the legitimacy of divorce on the grounds of adultery, or desertion by an unbelieving partner only;  
 Whereas: our civil authorities have taken it upon themselves to recognize other than Scriptural grounds for divorce;  
 Therefore: be it resolved that the General Assembly appoint a committee to further investigate the practice of divorce and remarriage both within and without the PCA, to the end that specific conditions of divorce be incorporated in the *Book of Church Order*, as may be most conformable to the Word of God."

The Committee held its first meeting by way of a telephone conference call, on November 14, 1977. Teaching Elder Settle was elected Chairman, and Teaching Elder Stanway was elected Secretary. Operating procedures were established, bibliographical resources shared, and sub-committees appointed and charged with specific duties relative to the task assigned the Committee.

A second meeting was convened on January 27, 1978, in Atlanta, Georgia. The Rev. Morton Smith and The Rev. Charles Dunahoo reviewed the actions of the General Assembly and of the Constitutional Documents Committee which has prepared the original report (no. 1, above).

After a thorough discussion of the subject under consideration, the Committee adopted the following statement and recommendations for presentation to the Sixth General Assembly:

I. The Interpretation of Paul's qualification for church officers, "the husband of one wife," I Timothy 3:2 and 12; Titus 1:6.

Paul's qualification that an elder or deacon must be "the husband of one wife" has been interpreted mainly in four ways.

1. Some have held that any twice-married man is thereby disqualified for church office, and some devout scholars have translated Paul's words to read, "married only once." Nowhere in the Bible, however, is the remarriage of a widow or widower as such treated as a reflection upon that person's moral character. Consequently, this interpretation does not seem valid.
2. A second interpretation is that an elder must not be a polygamist or that he must not have more than one living wife or more than one woman living who has been his wife. Although scholars have differed in their judgment of the extent to which polygamy posed a problem for the church in Paul's day, the interpretation of Paul's words as excluding a polygamist from church office appears to be a valid one.
3. Some interpret Paul's qualification as directed against the divorce evil, which seems to have been rather common, and have understood Paul's words as disqualifying for church office a man who had divorced and remarried, or at least a man who had divorced on other than Scriptural grounds and remarried.
4. Still another interpretation is that a man called to office in the church must be a man of unquestioned moral integrity, a man who is free from any taint of sexual promiscuity or laxity, and who is strictly faithful to his one wife.

Each of the latter three of these views has certain merit as an interpretation of Paul's words, "the husband of one wife," both in the light of the immediate context (with its emphasis on the officer's being above reproach and his managing his own family well) and in the larger context of the whole Scripture. Paul's concern seems to involve this much at the very least, that the man chosen to be a church officer (whether elder or deacon) must be a man whose marital and family relationships are above reproach, and whose personal example gives no encouragement to lax morality.

II. Recommendations: The Committee accordingly recommends:

1. That the General Assembly reaffirm its commitment to the Biblical position as summarized in the *Westminster Confession of Faith*, Chapter XXIV, regarding the integrity of marriage according to the Divine ideal as being for life.
2. That the General Assembly affirm that the integrity of marriage is founded upon God's Word, which declares that marriage is God's institution and should be God-centered, not man-centered. Both husband and wife are the Lord's servants and submit one to the other in terms of the Lord's purposes. They are, together, the Lord's creatures, called to serve Him, with one, the husband, exercising loving headship in that calling.
3. That the General Assembly declare that the Biblical ideal for church office is exemplary conduct to the highest degree possible with regard to all of the qualifications set forth by the Apostle Paul in I Timothy and Titus 1.
4. That the General Assembly affirm that the Bible teaches that divorce is permissible in the case of sexual immorality (Deuteronomy 24:1-4; Matthew 19:9) or willful desertion of a believer by an unbeliever (I Corinthians 7:15). The innocent party is therefore free to remarry, since he is no longer "under bondage," once properly divorced. (See *Westminster Confession Of Faith*, XXIV-5). Anyone who is divorced in accord with Biblical principles, whether remaining single or having remarried, may serve as a church officer.
5. That the General Assembly urge church courts to exercise special care in the cases of divorced/remarried persons who are considered for ordination, that where there has been divorce and remarriage on other than Scriptural grounds, guilt must be acknowledged and repentance for sin expressed.
6. That the General Assembly remind the church that in order to be considered for church office the parties concerned in such cases must have been rehabilitated sufficiently in the confidence and respect of other Christians as to be able to fulfill in an exemplary way the requirements of church office with regard to marital and family relationships. The General Assembly reminds the church and its courts that even when such care is exercised as is urged in this and the foregoing recommendation, there may be circumstances in which it would be inadvisable, even though technically permissible, for divorced/remarried persons to serve as church officers.
7. That the General Assembly exhort sessions and presbyteries to follow Scriptural guidelines carefully in dealing with present or prospective church officers who have been divorced.
8. That the General Assembly answer Overture 12 from the Presbytery of North Georgia to the Fifth General Assembly, with regard to divorce and remarriage, by reference to the *Westminster Confession of Faith*, Chapter XXIV.

Teaching Elder James Campbell and Ruling Elder John Thompson are submitting a minority report so that the General Assembly will have opportunity to discuss a concept other than that espoused by the Committee as a whole.

Respectfully submitted,

**Ruling Elders**

Kenneth Ryskamp  
Steve Fox  
Henry Dekker  
John Thompson  
Stokes Robertson

**Advisory Members**

Morton H. Smith  
Charles H. Dunahoo

**Teaching Elders**

William J. Stanway  
Charles Young  
James Campbell  
Richard Knodel  
Paul Settle, Chairman

**MINORITY REPORT  
AD-INTERIM THEOLOGICAL COMMITTEE ON DIVORCE**

Change I, 4 of the Committee's statement to read as follows:

Each of the latter three of these views has certain merit as an interpretation of Paul's words, "the husband of one wife," however, Paul, in the context of I Timothy 3 and Titus 1:5-9, is giving clear guidelines for the selection of officers in the Church, the household of God. In order to protect the church which is the pillar and support of the truth (I Timothy 3:15), Paul states most clearly that men who exercise leadership must have proven their ability to manage their own households (I Timothy 3:4, 12; Titus 1:6) before they can care for God's household (I Timothy 3:15). Thus, one who has difficulty managing a small family, which ends in divorce on other than Biblical grounds, has demonstrated a character weakness and character taint which is a warning to the Church that he is one unfit to manage the larger family, the Church of the Living God. Such a man may certainly know God's forgiveness upon repentance and have a secure place in the Church but he has forfeited his opportunity to serve as an officer because he would then be the husband of more than one wife.

In order to protect the Church, Paul directs (I Timothy 3:10) that potential leadership be tested by the Church and thus prove their worthiness to hold the offices of the Church. One who is divorced on other than Biblical grounds, would cast doubt on his ability to provide leadership within the Church in family counseling situations.

Paul is also concerned that the leadership of the Church be above reproach (I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6) and not open to a charge of a bad reputation by those outside the Church (I Timothy 3:7). Any church leader who had experienced mishandling of his own family and divorce on other than Biblical grounds, would open the Church to ridicule and contempt by those outside.

Change the Committee's recommendation to read as follows:

**II. Recommendations:**

- A. That the recommendations of the Ad-Interim Theological Committee, numbers 1 through 4 be adopted as stated;
- B. That recommendations 5 and 6 be deleted;
- C. That recommendation 7 be amended to read as follows:
  5. That the General Assembly exhort sessions and presbyteries to follow scriptural guidelines carefully in dealing with present or prospective church officers who have been divorced. That no man be considered for church office who has been divorced on other than Biblical grounds in order that the church and its leadership may be above reproach by both those outside and inside the Church.
- D. That recommendation 8 be numbered 6.

Respectfully submitted  
Reverend Jim Campbell  
Mr. John G. Thompson

Committee report adopted. § 7-42; pp. 106-110.

## ROLLS OF COMMITTEES OF COMMISSIONERS

### Committee of Commissioners on Administration

<b>Presbytery</b>	<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Alternate</b>
Ascension	RE George F. Fox	
Calvary	TE Gaynor Phillips	
Central Carolina	RE Bud Pethel	
Central Florida	TE Russell Toms	
Central Georgia	RE Neal Ham	
Covenant	TE Harold Richardson	TE Danny Ketchum
Eastern Carolina	TE Denver Blevins	
Evangel	RE Doug Haskew	
Grace	TE Don Hendricks	
Gulf Coast	RE Frank Emond	RE James W. Thompson
Louisiana	RE W. G. Owen	
Mid-Atlantic	RE Thomas Blount	
Mississippi Valley	TE B. I. Anderson	
New River	RE Bob Gallagher	
North Georgia	TE Joseph A. Gardner, Jr.	
Pacific		
Southern Florida	TE Todd Allen	
Tennessee Valley		
Texas	TE John McNicoll	
Warrior	RE Marvin Baker	
Western Carolinas	TE James McAlpine	
Westminster	RE Charles Lowery	

### Committee of Commissioners on Bills and Overtures

<b>Presbytery</b>	<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Alternate</b>
Ascension	TE Paul M. Doriani	
Calvary	RE Glen C. Alexander	
Central Carolina	TE Dewey Murphy	
Central Florida	RE Paul Zetterholm	
Central Georgia	TE Henry Hope	
Covenant	RE R. A. Carson	
Eastern Carolina	RE Walter W. Martin	
Evangel	TE Henry L. Smith	
Grace	RE T. E. Hood	

authority of the constitutional documents to replace the temporary statement which now appears at the beginning of the "*Directory of Worship*" paragraph 3-70, *Minutes of Third General Assembly*:

That the matter be referred to the Permanent Committee on Judicial Business for appropriate action. *Adopted.*

23. Concerning the action of the Sixth General Assembly recommending that suggestions about additions or deletions to the proof texts in the Westminster Confession of Faith be referred to the Constitutional Documents Committee (6-107-(1) *Minutes of the Sixth General Assembly*).

That such suggestions be referred to the Committee on Christian Education and Publications. *Adopted.*

24. That Overture 20 (p. 35) concerning increasing the term of office for the General Assembly Nominating Committee members to two years be answered in the affirmative. *Adopted.*

25. That Overture 23 (p. 36) concerning amendments to BCO 58-5-2 be answered in the negative. *Adopted.*

26. That Overture 27 (p. 36) asking for a study of the Certificate of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the Presbyterian Church in America be answered in the affirmative as amended. *Adopted.*

**Whereas**, the Presbyterian Church in America came into existence with the intention of establishing and/or continuing the testimony of historical Biblical Presbyterianism; and

**Whereas**, the Presbyterian Church in America does acknowledge the Word of God written to be the only infallible Standard of faith and practice; and

**Whereas**, the Certificate of Incorporation of the Presbyterian Church in America and the Bylaws of the aforesaid Corporation do contain provisions which are outgrowths of secular law instead of Biblical principle, as for example a Board of Directors; and

**Whereas**, the existence of and provision for a Board of Directors and other such practices typical of secular law may one day pose a threat to the aforesaid intention of the Presbyterian Church in America;

**Therefore**, Grace Presbytery overtures the Seventh General Assembly to direct the Permanent Sub-Committee on Judicial Business to review the whole matter of the Certificate of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the Presbyterian Church in America with the purpose of proposing revisions to these named documents in order if necessary that they may be brought into conformity with the Standards of our Church.

27. That Resolution 13 (p. 43) concerning the rotation of elders be answered as follows:

This General Assembly believes that the previous General Assembly acted wisely when it adopted Chapter 25 in the BCO without legislating on the specific matter of the rotation of church officers. *Adopted.*

28. That the proposed changes to BCO, chapters 19-22 (pp. 44) be adopted as amended by the Committee of Commissioners on Judicial Business of the Sixth General Assembly with the following exception:

That the recommended change for 21-1 read "by deleting the *first* paragraph and substituting the following in its place:" (change underlined). *Referred to Permanent Sub-Committee on Judicial Business.*

Roll of Committee of Commissioners on Judicial Business

Ascension  
Central Carolina

Harry C. George, TE  
Charles Wilson, TE

Central Georgia	James P. Campbell, TE
Covenant	Arthur Rogers, RE
Eastern Carolina	Julian Watkins, RE
Evangel	Kenneth Wilson, TE, Chairman
Grace	E. L. Caston, RE
Louisiana	Stanwood Bean, TE
Mid-Atlantic	O. Palmer Robertson, TE
Mississippi Valley	James B. Hutton III, RE
New River	William Fitzhenry, TE
North Georgia	John W. Yarborough, RE
Southern Florida	Kinnis Schumacher, RE
Tennessee Valley	William Bell, TE, Secretary
Warrior	Julian Stennis, TE
Western Carolinas	Harold J. Lonon, RE
Westminster	Philip Evaul, TE

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenneth D. Wilson, Chairman  
William H. Bell, Jr., Secretary

The Assembly received the report as a whole as amended.

(Clerk's Note: Items 12-15 were handled on Wednesday morning (paragraph 7-51), and 16-28 on Wednesday afternoon (paragraph 7-54). The entire report is included here for easier reference.)

#### **7-42. Ad-Interim Theological Committee on Divorce**

At 9:00 p.m. the Assembly moved to the order of the day, the report of the Ad-Interim Theological Committee on Divorce carried over from the Sixth General Assembly. The Rev. Paul G. Settle, chairman, presented the report after leading in prayer.

The task given the Ad Interim Theological Committee on Divorce was two-fold:

- 1) To review and re-study Part II of the Constitutional Documents Committee Report entitled "Interpretation of I Timothy 3:2, 'the husband of one wife,'" and report to the Sixth General Assembly;
- 2) To consider and make recommendation concerning Overture 12 from North Georgia Presbytery to the Fifth General Assembly:

**Whereas:** God's Word enjoins His people to recognize the legitimacy of divorce on the grounds of adultery, or desertion by an unbelieving partner only;

**Whereas:** our civil authorities have taken it upon themselves to recognize other than Scriptural grounds for divorce;

**Therefore:** be it resolved that the General Assembly appoint a committee to further investigate the practice of divorce and remarriage both within and without the PCA, to the end that specific conditions of divorce be incorporated in the *Book of Church Order*, as may be most conformable to the Word of God.

The Committee held its first meeting by way of a telephone conference call, on November 14, 1977. Teaching Elder Settle was elected Chairman, and Teaching Elder Stanway was elected Secretary. Operating procedures were established, bibliographical resources shared, and sub-committees appointed and charged with specific duties relative to the task assigned the Committee.

A second meeting was convened on January 27, 1978, in Atlanta, Georgia. The Rev. Morton Smith and The Rev. Charles Dunahoo reviewed the actions of

the General Assembly and of the Constitutional Documents Committee which has prepared the original report (no. 1, above).

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1. Some have held that any twice-married man is thereby disqualified for church office, and some devout scholars have translated Paul's words to read, "married only once." Nowhere in the Bible, however, is the remarriage of a widow or widower as such treated as a reflection upon that person's moral character. Consequently, this interpretation does not seem valid.
2. A second interpretation is that an elder must not be a polygamist or that he must not have more than one living wife or more than one woman living who has been his wife. Although scholars have differed in their judgment of the extent to which polygamy posed a problem for the church in Paul's day, the interpretation of Paul's words as excluding a polygamist from church office appears to be a valid one.
3. Some interpret Paul's qualification as directed against the divorce evil, which seems to have been rather common, and have understood Paul's words as disqualifying for church office a man who had divorced and remarried, or at least a man who had divorced on other than Scriptural grounds and remarried.
4. Still another interpretation is that a man called to office in the church must be a man of unquestioned moral integrity, a man who is free from any taint of sexual promiscuity or laxity, and who is strictly faithful to his one wife.

Each of the latter three of these views has certain merit as an interpretation of Paul's words, "the husband of one wife," both in the light of the immediate context (with its emphasis on the officer's being above reproach and his managing his own family well) and in the larger context of the whole Scripture. Paul's concern seems to involve this much at the very least, that the man chosen to be a church officer (whether elder or deacon) must be a man whose marital and family relationships are above reproach, and whose personal example gives no encouragement to lax morality.

II. Recommendations:

1. That the General Assembly reaffirm its commitment to the Biblical position as summarized in the *Westminster Confession of Faith*, Chapter XXIV, regarding the integrity of marriage according to the Divine ideal as being for life.
2. That the General Assembly affirm that the integrity of marriage is founded upon God's Word, which declares that marriage is God's institution and should be God-centered, not man-centered. Both husband and wife are the Lord's servants and submit one to the other in terms of the Lord's purposes. They are, together, the Lord's creatures, called to serve Him, with one, the husband, exercising loving headship in that calling.
3. That the General Assembly declare that the Biblical ideal for church office is exemplary conduct to the highest degree possible with regard to all of the qualifications set forth by the Apostle Paul in I Timothy and Titus 1.

4. That the General Assembly affirm that the Bible teaches that divorce is permissible in the case of sexual immorality (Deuteronomy 24:1-4; Matthew 19:9) or willful desertion of a believer by an unbeliever (I Corinthians 7:15). The innocent party is therefore free to remarry, since he is no longer "under bondage," once properly divorced. (See *Westminster Confession Of Faith*, XXIV-5). Any man who is divorced in accord with Biblical principles, whether remaining single or having remarried, may serve as a church officer.
5. That the General Assembly urge church courts to exercise special care in the cases of divorced/remarried persons who are considered for ordination, that where there has been divorce and remarriage on other than Scriptural grounds, guilt must be acknowledged and repentance for sin expressed.
6. That the General Assembly remind the Church that in order to be considered for church office the parties concerned in such cases must have been rehabilitated sufficiently in the confidence and respect of other Christians as to be able to fulfill in an exemplary way the requirements of church office with regard to marital and family relationships. The General Assembly reminds the Church and its courts that even when such care is exercised as is urged in this and the foregoing recommendation, there may be circumstances in which it would be inadvisable, even though technically permissible, for divorced/remarried persons to serve as church officers.
7. That the General Assembly exhort sessions and presbyteries to follow Scriptural guidelines carefully in dealing with present or prospective church officers who have been divorced.
8. That the General Assembly answer Overture 12 from the Presbytery of North Georgia to the Fifth General Assembly, with regard to divorce and remarriage, by reference to the *Westminster Confession of Faith*, Chapter XXIV.

Teaching Elder James Campbell and Ruling Elder John Thompson are submitting a minority report so that the General Assembly will have opportunity to discuss a concept other than that espoused by the Committee as a whole.

Respectfully submitted,

**Ruling Elders**  
 Kenneth Ryskamp  
 Steve Fox  
 Henry Dekker  
 John Thompson  
 Stokes Robertson

**Advisory Members**  
 Morton H. Smith  
 Charles H. Dunahoo

**Teaching Elders**  
 William J. Stanway  
 Charles Young  
 James Campbell  
 Richard Knodel  
 Paul Settle, Chairman

The Rev. James M. Baird, Jr., led the Assembly in prayer following which the report was adopted by a vote of 418 to 108. The following commissioners requested their negative votes recorded:

John E. Kapple  
 Leonard H. Bullock

J. R. Bibb  
 Walter L. DeHart

Eugene Case  
 Richard Wiman  
 Vaughn E. Hathaway  
 C. C. Sumrall  
 Jack Eubanks  
 Stanwood Bean  
 Richard Fraser  
 S. Michael Preg, Jr.  
 William C. McKee  
 E. Paul Summerville  
 Robert L. Craggs  
 Philip J. Adams  
 Howard C. Hansen  
 Kyle E. Barr  
 Robert G. Sweet  
 Herbert L. Broadwater, Jr.  
 James Snyder  
 George Harris  
 Samuel Mateer  
 Dewitt D. Smylie  
 George R. Caler

Henry R. Gundlach III  
 H. L. Smith  
 Frank E. Coho  
 Paul E. Zetterhelm  
 Donald W. Ray  
 H. Franklin Smith  
 John W. P. Oliver  
 William E. Hendricks  
 Leon F. Wardell  
 Edwin P. Elliott, Jr.  
 Robert O. Wilcox  
 Frank D. Moser  
 Daniel H. Perrin  
 Stuart Perrin  
 J.W. Stodghill  
 Robert P. Slimp  
 James Pancoast  
 Erwin Morrison  
 K. Eric Perrin  
 J. Lewis Baker

The following dissent to the adoption of this Report was received later during the Assembly (paragraph 7-56). It was found to be temperate in language and respectful to the Court, and ordered to be recorded in the Minutes without reply. (It is included here for easier reference.)

#### REASONS FOR RECORDING A NEGATIVE VOTE ON THE AD-INTERIM COMMITTEE REPORT ON DIVORCE

1. The ruling of the moderator regarding consideration of the minority report as a substitute motion as a whole for the majority report and the time limits imposed, therefore, upon the debate by the Rules of General Assembly Operations did not permit a full and free debate upon the merits of either report.
2. Neither the majority report nor the minority report sufficiently address the problem of Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders who were ordained even though they may have been divorced unbiblically.
  - a. The minority report does not take into view the provisions of the *BCO* regarding judicial action, either with or without process.
  - b. The majority report allows for the continuation of an unbiblical practice begun in our denominational predecessors. The errors of other denominations should not become precedent for our denominational practice.
3. The majority report is internally inconsistent regarding its own statement on the valid interpretation of "the husband of one wife." Item 2 of the narrative states that "the interpretation of Paul's words as excluding a polygamist from church offices appears to be a valid one." The first sentence includes in its definition of a polygamist one who has "more than one woman living who has been his wife." Certain recommendations of the majority report are contradictory of this interpretation.
4. The narrative of the majority report does not present a sufficient exegesis of "the husband of one wife" and the related subject of divorce. The report fails to address the tension between separation (living apart) and dissolution.

Although adultery is granted to be a biblical ground for divorce. It is not a teaching of Scripture that divorce in such cases is required. Neither does adultery in itself dissolve the marriage relationship, even in the light of I Corinthians 6:16. If the contrary were true, the marriage relationship would have to be reestablished, which might then be contrary to Matthew 5:31-32.

5. The argumentation based upon the present tense of the verbs—which actually are an impersonal participle and an infinitive—presented by a member of the committee in favor of the majority report, is based on faulty exegesis. This argument that the qualifications specified refer only to the present condition is contrary to the normal usage of the infinitive.

The infinitive has the idea of tense only in the sense of the “punctillar, durative, (and) state of completion” without reference to time except in the case of indirect discourse where it represents the direct. Therefore, when the present infinitive occurs, It stresses the idea of linear action without reference to time. These qualifications would apply to the past, the present, and the future.

Vaughn E. Hathaway, Jr.  
Eugene C. Case  
Leonard Bullock  
Fred E. Manning, Jr.  
John W. Stodghill  
Samuel G. Hoyt, Jr.  
Erwin Morrison  
K. Eric Perrin  
C. O. Baker, Jr.

The following dissent was received later in the Assembly (paragraph 7-61). It was found to be temperate in language and respectful to the Court, and was ordered recorded in the Minutes without reply. (It is included here for easier reference.)

My reason for voting against the Report rests upon the principle, that the paper is wholly inadequate as an exegetical work from which to draw these recommendations. The recommendations leave the Church with the task of evaluating particular situations and making judgments. Over even a short period of time, it will be impossible to refer to this report for theological substance to keep a consistent position in this matter.

Richard Fraser  
Central Florida Presbytery

#### 7-43 New Business

The Rev. Frederick S. Carr presented the following resolution which was received and referred to the Committee of Commissioners on Administration.

**Whereas**, reading minutes for notations of spelling, punctuation and other minor errors is very time-consuming and requires an expertise that many commissioners do not possess, and

**Whereas**, it is important to emphasize the primacy of reading for substance,  
**Therefore**, be it resolved that the *Rules for Assembly Operations* be amended as follows:

1. 8-14 Guidelines for Examining Committee Minutes
  - A. Replace paragraph 4 with:
    4. The Committee shall report all *exceptions* in two categories:
      - a) *Form*: Violations of the Assembly's *Guidelines for Keeping Minutes of Permanent Committees of the General Assembly*.