

THE

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MINUTES OF THE SYNOD OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, U. S. A.

SESSION LXI.

SECOND R. P. CHURCH, NEW YORK, N. Y., }
Wednesday, June 4th, 1890. }

The Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church met pursuant to adjournment in the Second Reformed Presbyterian church, New York, N. Y., Wednesday, June 4th, 1890, at 10 o'clock A. M.

The time for hearing the sermon by the retiring moderator having been previously fixed for the evening, the court was at once called to order and constituted with prayer by the moderator, R. M. Sommerville.

The roll was then called, and, being made up, is as follows:

ROLL OF SYNOD.

ILLINOIS PRESBYTERY.

CONGREGATIONS.	MINISTERS.	ELDERS.
Bethel,	D. S. Faris,	A. W. Hunter.
Bloomington,	D. J. Shaw,†	J. B. Faris.
Church Hill,	J. Ralston Wylie,	R. K. Wisely.
Elkhorn,	D. G. Thompson,	Robt. B. Anderson.
Old Bethel,	R. C. Reed,*†	L. M. Patterson.
St. Louis,		John Ingram.
Selma,	G. M. Elliott,†	J. H. Pickens.†
Staunton,	E. M. Smith,	Silas Smith.

OHIO PRESBYTERY.

CONGREGATIONS.	MINISTERS.	ELDERS.
Jonathan's Creek,	R. B. Cannon.	W. P. Clarke.
Mansfield,	S. A. George,†	John Robison.
Muskingum & Tomica,	J. M. Wylie,	Thomas Stewart,
New Concord,	J. M. Faris,	James Watson.
Utica,	J. S. Thompson,	

† Not present at constitution of Court.

* Ordained since last meeting.

The general character of those now in the mission is much better than that of last year. A greater proportion of the better class of Chinamen attend, and others have been elevated by their attendance at the mission. One encouraging feature of the mission at present is the large number of young boys in attendance. We can do little with the older ones, but we have hope for the boys. We have fortunately secured a good Chinese helper, Wong Sing, who has been faithfully working with us since January. Before that we were assisted by Cheung Git as interpreter. Also Miss Rosie E. Johnston was employed till in October, and Wm. Smyth till the end of December. Mrs. Patton has given gratuitous and constant service throughout the year. We have also had the occasional voluntary assistance of others.

Besides the Chinese mission there is a very pleasant little band of Covenanters and United Presbyterians here who have worshipped together during the year. To these I have also preached much of the time. Revs. N. R. Johnston and David Morrow kindly favored us occasionally with a sermon. To this society there has been an addition of one on profession. We have made special effort this year to have a (white) Reformed Presbyterian congregation raised up in Oakland. To this end I have given gratuitous labor preaching to the people, doing even more than I was able to endure, hoping that another minister might be sent to take charge of this work. We raised a subscription and petitioned the Board of Central Missions to help us thus to occupy this interesting and promising field. Although the Board was in sympathy with our cause, yet owing chiefly to the limited funds in the treasury the scheme was for the time laid aside.

In July we were cheered by a visit from Dr. J. K. McClurkin who remained among us a week, strengthening the disciples, and encouraging the missionaries. Rev. N. M. Johnston and Rev. R. C. Wylie, and others have also visited us.

I cannot close this report without noting the hearty concurrence of the Board in all our plans and suggestions, thus encouraging and strengthening us in the Lord's works.

Above all I desire to record the goodness of the Lord in bringing our mission through all the difficulties of the year, leaving it in better condition than it has been at any previous time since our taking charge of it; in adding to our crown of rejoicing in giving us three more souls as a reward of our labors; leaving us with more faith and hope, and love to dying sinners than we ever had before. Many times and in various ways he has verified his promise, "Lo I am with you."

Respectfully submitted, JAMES PATTON.

OAKLAND, CAL., *May 7th*, 1889.

Annual Report of Rev. W. W. Carithers.

DEAR FATHERS AND BRETHREN:—The past year has been one of many disappointments and also many encouragements. The distance from everything proved a great hinderance in getting material, and kept back the building beyond all our expectation. A number of plans for procuring material failed and added to the cost.

In other cases the estimates were at fault, this being a proof of what any one might know, viz: that an expert builder and contractor was not at the head of affairs. Yet it can be truly said that we have a

good substantial building that is a credit to our church and seems to be very well arranged for the work for which it is intended, and will compare favorably with other buildings of like cost through the church.

We have a farm in good producing condition, a good well and a cistern with filter. And it is expected that the farm will within a few years produce enough to keep the stock and furnish all needed farm products for the school.

We have been able to hold service regularly with the white men working on the building; almost all of these were unbelievers and we hope that some influence may have been exerted on their lives. We also went to Ft. Sill and preached in the post chapel on Sabbath evening, and as they are without any religious instruction whatever this field seems about as needy a one as any.

Among the Indians opportunities for preaching have been frequent, and have all been improved; for a time it was difficult to get any interpreter that could be relied on; but as we became better acquainted, we found means of communication, and the Indians, without any exception, seemed to delight in the service. They called it "sweet talk" and at times went to considerable trouble to provide places for me to speak to them. Their ignorance seems unrelieved by a single ray of light. Their superstitions binds them as with a chain. Yet often in turning away from their eager eyes it was a joy to think that they had heard enough of the plan of salvation that they need not be lost through ignorance. Our acquaintance of another year with the work only deepens our conviction of the need of hastening to these darkened lives with the light.

I have been so occupied with cares connected with the building that I have given but little attention to the language. The teachers have made considerable progress and will use the coming months in the study of the language, both sign and oral.

The teachers, during the winter, visited all the camps convenient to the mission and tried in every way possible to help them; during the summer they hope to visit on a wider circuit, going ten to thirty miles, and when necessary camping out over night.

Mr. Wilson and family will take charge of affairs and conduct the work at the mission. We were not able to bring pressure enough to bear on the Indians to get any of their children into school this spring.

In January the house was so near completion that we thought we could accommodate a few children and begin school work, and while several times we had positive promises from Indians that on certain dates they would bring in their children, yet these were never fulfilled. They finally said that in the hot spring months the children did not like to stay in school, and as that was coming soon they did not think it worth while to start them. They assured me that they will send their children in the fall when the school opens, but it will be different from the past if there is not some very good reason why the time should be extended.

We have been able to reach the Indians better and the work seemed more successful along the evangelical line than in school work. This may be an indication to us of the way we should seek to enlarge our work. I am sure the pillar of cloud moves forward, and our prayers

for open doors have been answered, and we should rather pray for grace and strength to enter into the blessing our Lord designs for us.

Your brother, W. W. CARITHERS.

Conference on Union.

The committee on union of the Synod and General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian churches, met in the Eighth street Reformed Presbyterian church, Pittsburgh, January 31, 1890, at 3 P. M.

Prof. W. P. Johnston, chairman of Synod's committee, called the meeting to order. Dr. J. F. Morton, of Cedarville, Ohio, opened the meeting with prayer. Rev. J. W. Sproull, D. D., was chosen chairman and Rev. John Alford, secretary.

The committee from the Synod were: Ministers: W. P. Johnston, W. J. Coleman, H. H. George, D. D., J. W. Sproull, D. D., David McAllister, D. D., and A. Kilpatrick. Ruling elders: A. B. Copeland, W. S. McAnlis and J. C. Calderwood, the last being absent. The committee from General Synod were: Ministers: J. F. Morton, D. D., John Graham, S. M. Ramsey, J. H. Kendall and John Alford. Ruling elders: James W. Houston, Robert Abbott, James Patterson, Ephraim Young and Thomas Gibson. Absent: Ephraim Young and Thomas Gibson. A short season was spent in devotional exercises under the direction of the chairman. The objects of the meeting was stated by Prof. Johnston and Rev. John Graham.

The following ministers of the United Presbyterian Church were present and were invited to seats as consultative members: Drs. D. W. Collins, J. N. Dick and R. J. Miller, Revs. J. S. Speer, D. M. Thorn, D. S. Littell and J. A. Kennedy, and Joseph McNaugher, ruling elder.

After some suggestions as to the manner of conducting the conference, the following paper from the committee of General Synod was read by Dr. Morton:

Deeply conscious of the importance of the re-union of the two branches of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, and regarding it as our bounden duty as the followers of Christ to remove, as far as possible, every barrier that stands in the way of its consummation, we respectfully submit the following propositions as a basis for the action of the joint committee:

General Synod accepts in full the Declaratory testimony which is to-day acknowledged by the Synod as their constitutional law to which applicants for admission to the church are required to give their assent.

General Synod accepts in full the Terms of Communion as they were held in common before the division of 1833.

General Synod accepts the covenant of 1871 with the understanding that the phrase, "incorporate with the political body," means such incorporation as involves sinful compliance with its religious defects.

General Synod accepts the principle of dissent from an immoral constitution as a Christian duty, believes that the constitution of the United States is defective in failing to own God and Christ and his law, and will labor to secure the Christian amendment proposed by the National Reform Association.

General Synod accepts the position of the testimony, pages 7-8, that "the particular application of the principles of the testimony . . . should not be incorporated with the confession of the church's faith," and that "Terms of Communion should embrace nothing but what is divine truth."—Testimony, XXII: 4.

General Synod agrees that the names of the members of either court in 1833 and their successors shall be enrolled upon the records of the opposite court and they two become one.