

Galbraith

THE CONSTITUTING MEETING
of the
NORTH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN AND REFORMED COUNCIL (NAPARC)

Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania
October 31-November 1, 1975

1. The meeting was called to order by J. P. Galbraith, chairman of the acting interim committee on a council, at 2:10 p.m. on October 31, 1975, in the Holiday Inn, Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania.

CALL TO ORDER

2. The chairman read Isaiah 40, presented a devotional based on this passage and led in prayer.

DEVOTIONS

3. The chairman appointed G. W. Knight as secretary pro-tem. The roll was called and the following were present as delegates of the constituent churches:

ROLL

Christian Reformed Church (CRC):

Mr. Albert A. Bel, Rev. John Bratt, Rev. William P. Brink, Rev. John H. Kromminga; Rev. Nelson Vander Zee (alternate).

Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC):

Rev. Edmund P. Clowney, Rev. John P. Galbraith, Rev. George W. Knight III, Rev. LeRoy B. Oliver; Rev. Jack J. Peterson (alternate).

Presbyterian Church in America (PCA):

~~Rev. Donald E. Boerema~~, Rev. Donald C. Graham, Rev. O. Palmer Robertson, Mr. W. J. Williamson; Rev. Morton H. Smith (alternate).

Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod (RPCES):

Rev. Thomas G. Cross, Rev. R. Laird Harris, Rev. J. Barton Payne, Rev. Lynden H. Stewart; alternates: Rev. Franklin S. Dyrness, Rev. George C. Miladin, Rev. Robert G. Rayburn.

Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA):

Rev. Lester E. Kilpatrick, Rev. Dean R. Smith, Rev. Bruce C. Stewart, Rev. S. Bruce Willson; Rev. John H. White (alternate).

Also present, as observers, were:

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARPC):

Mr. Gordon Parkinson, Mr. Dodd Vernon.

Reformed Church in the United States (Eureka Classis) (RCUS):

Rev. Paul Treick.

4. The minutes of the Joint Committee meeting of January 22-23, 1975, were presented, and approved with this correction: the addition of the initials, M. H., to the name Smith on page 7, second paragraph.

MINUTES

5. Reports of delegations on actions of the respective Synods/General Assemblies on membership in the Council were presented orally.

SYNOD ACTIONS
ON NAPARC

The five constituting churches listed above reported affirmative actions. The delegation of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod reported further that its Synod voted to participate "provisionally and then evaluate" for one year, and also that its Synod voted "to seek to strengthen the doctrinal statement of NAPARC, specifically to include the concept of infallibility where Scripture speaks of history and the cosmos." The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church observers reported that their Synod had voted to "notify the (Council) that we desire full membership and participation" in it. The Reformed Church in the United States observer reported that that church had determined to remain as observers for the time being.

6. Report No. 1 of the Interim Committee was presented as follows:

INTERIM COM.
REPORT 1

NEWS
Release

The Interim Committee reports that a news release, announcing the decision of the January 22-23 joint meeting of the Interchurch (Fraternal) Relations Committees to recommend to their churches the establishment of this Council, was sent to the religious and secular press.

Meeting
Called

The Committee further reports that, having learned informally but reliably during the past summer that four of the proposed founding churches of the proposed North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council had approved their participation in establishing the Council, the Committee proceeded to call this meeting here held. At that time the Presbyterian Church in America had not yet held its General Assembly, but at its meeting held in September did approve participation in the Council.

The Committee did not meet, but conferred and reached agreement through telephone conversations and correspondence. The undersigned conferred with representatives of the National Presbyterian and Reformed Fellowship (NPRF), which was scheduled to hold its annual meeting on a date partially overlapping the dates set for the NAPARC meeting, in order to coordinate place, date, and time. It was agreed that both meetings would be held in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, area, that the NPRF would adjourn no later than noon, Friday, October 31, and that NAPARC would convene at 2:00 PM on that date. The meeting place for both groups could not be decided at that time but the Rev. John H. White was asked to make arrangements. It was then decided to convene the meeting in the Holiday Inn at Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, and to continue on the following day at Geneva College, Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania.

Letters were written to the chairman of the Interchurch (Fraternal) Relations Committee of each of the founding churches, calling the meeting and informing them of the arrangements that had been made. Also invitations to send observers to this meeting were sent to the two churches that had had observers at previous joint meetings - the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church and the Reformed Church in the U.S.

Plan for Meeting
Reports
to
Synod/Assemblies

The Interchurch (Fraternal) Relations Committee of each founding church was requested to present to this meeting a formal report of the action of its Synod or General Assembly regarding membership in the Council, and regarding the recom-

mendation of the joint meeting of January 22-23 to the several churches that representatives of their agencies meet together on a regular basis. Each Committee was requested also to present to the Interim Committee by October 15, through its chairman, a report on matters subsumed in the Purpose and Function of the Council. The Committee regards this meeting as a planning meeting - to institute the carrying out of the Council's Purpose and Function.. The specific matters on which reports were requested are

(1). Subjects of study, including studies which have been completed by member churches which they believe might be of profit to the other churches, and subjects which any of the member churches might wish to consult with the other churches.

Study Subjects

(2). Areas of cooperation with other churches, including such as may already have been engaged in, and others which member churches may wish to explore for the future.

Areas of Cooperation

The Committee prepared an agenda for this meeting.

The Committee recommends

Recommendation

(1). That the actions of the several founding churches of the Council, as reported to this meeting, be spread on the minutes of the meeting.

Actions of Churches in Minutes

(2). That the following resolution constituting the Council be adopted:

Constituting Resolution

WHEREAS a Constitution and Bylaws for a North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council were adopted in joint session of the Interchurch (Fraternal) Relations Committees of the Christian Reformed Church, the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Church in America, the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod, and the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America, and

WHEREAS the several Committees presented the said Constitution and Bylaws to their respective Synods or General Assemblies for approval, and

WHEREAS the said Synods and General Assemblies did so give their approval, and

WHEREAS representatives of the said churches are, at the call of the authorized Interim Committee, here met in the city of Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, on this the 31st day of October in the year of our Lord 1975,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the said churches named above do hereby, by the authority vested in them by their churches, declare the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council to be duly constituted. To God be the glory. Amen.

(3). That the proposed agenda (as indicated by the numbered paragraphs in these minutes) be adopted.

Agenda

Respectfully submitted,
John P. Galbraith, Chairman

7. The floor was opened for nominations for secretary. Drs. Knight and Payne were nominated. Ballots were cast. B. Payne was elected. He then assumed his responsibilities. ELECTION OF SECRETARY

8. The floor was opened for nominations for chairman. J. Galbraith was nominated. There being no further nominations, the secretary was on motion instructed to cast a white ballot for Mr. Galbraith's election. OF CHAIRMAN

9. On motion the election of a treasurer was postponed until consideration of item 15, provision of funds for council affairs. OF TREASURER

10. Set times of recess and adjournment had been adopted (item 6, above). DOCKETED TIMES

11. Reports of the delegations on actions by their major assemblies relative to NAPARC included the following: REPORTS FROM SYNODS

a. On the proposed consultation of representatives of the denominational agencies (see January 1975, Minutes, p. 7): Approved: OPC, PCA, RPNA (if not more than one year). No action: CRC, RPCES. The latter two churches are to take cognizance of this request from the Council and of its approval by three of the churches and are requested to take action at the next meeting of their synods. The chairman appointed the CRC delegation to be responsible for convening the meetings of the agencies. Consultation by Agencies

b. On the proposed invitation of fraternal delegates to the major assemblies (see ibid.). Approved: CRC, PCA, RPCNA (while reserving the right not to send delegates). No action: OPC, RPCES. The latter two churches are to take cognizance of this request from the Council and of its approval by three of the churches and are requested to take action at the next meeting of their judicatories. Fraternal Delegates *major assemblies.*

c. Other reports.

i. The RPCES delegation reported the instructions of its General Synod (see item 5, above). It was moved and seconded that the Council recommend to its member churches that its Constitution, Art. II, Basis of the Council, be amended by inserting after the words, ". . . full commitment to the Scriptures as the infallible Word of God," the phrase, "including those passages where Scripture speaks of history and the cosmos." It was moved and carried that a committee of five, one appointed by each of the delegations, consider this matter and report to the Council at the beginning of the next morning session. The chairman appointed the CRC representative as convener. Representatives appointed were: CRC, Kromminga; OPC, Clowney; PCA, Robertson; RPCES, Harris; RPCNA, Willson. Amendment to Constitution

ii. The PCA delegation reported an action by its General Assembly that "This (NAPARC) relationship. . . (of) Churches in Ecclesiastical Fellowship. . . will imply: a. Exchange of fraternal delegates at major assemblies; b. Occasional pulpit fellowship; c. Intercommunion (i.e., fellowship at the Table of the Lord); d. Joint action in areas of common responsibility; e. Communication on major issues of joint concern; f. The exercise of mutual concern and admonition, with a view to promoting the fundamentals of Christian unity." It also reported a further action in the form of a resolution on prayer (see item 13-b-ii, below). PCA

12. Report No. 2 of the Interim Committee was presented as follows:

INTERIM COM.
REPORT 2

In response to your Committee's request to the Interchurch (Fraternal) Relations Committee of the several founding churches of the Council, dated July 25, 1975, three of these Committees made suggestions regarding possible subjects for study and areas of cooperation among the member churches.

Suggested
Study and
Cooperation

They are as follows, in the order appearing in the Proposed Agenda:

1. Study subjects

a. Already completed, which can be shared - OPC

- (1) Oath-bound secret societies
- (2) Local Evangelism
- (3) Theological Education
- (4) Song in Public Worship
- (5) Proof Texts for the Westminster Confession of Faith
- (6) The Free Offer of the Gospel
- (7) The Doctrine of Guidance
- (8) Scripture and Inspiration
- (9) Sabbath Question
- (10) Abortion
- (11) Race

The OPC Committee proposes, in this connection, that "each denominational delegation prepare an index of major reports to assemblies/synods for integration into a common index"

b. On which consultation and study is desired

- (1) Officers of the church - RPCNA
- (2) Number of offices in the church - PCA
- (3) Nature of diaconate office - RPCNA
- (4) Guidelines for reception/dismissal of ministers - RPCNA
- (5) Proof-texts of Westminster Confession and Catechisms - PCA
- (6) Reformed evangelism - OPC
- (7) Unity of the church and denominations - OPC
- (8) Advice on how to explore possibility of church union - OPC

2. Areas of cooperation

a. Already engaged in

- (1) Formerly
Christian Education - CRC/OPC
- (2) Presently
 - (a) Christian Education - OPC/RPCNA, PCA
 - (b) Foreign Missions - OPC/RCUS, RC New Zealand, RC Australia, RC (Art. 31) of the Netherlands
 - (c) Verbal revision of Westminster Confession - RPCNA/OPC, RPCES

b. Which should be explored

- (1) Verbal revision of Westminster Confession - RPCNA, PCA
- (2) Concert of prayer - PCA
- (3) Conduct of missionary work - PCA
- (4) Use of churches' major reports - OPC
- (5) Cooperative work by respective agencies - OPC

These responses indicate a widespread sense of need and desire for mutual instruction and help among our churches. The number of matters placed before this meeting reinforces this Committee's opinion, expressed in our July 25 letter, that this meeting should be, after organization, chiefly a planning meeting for future operation. Provision is made in the Proposed Agenda for this under the item "Formulation of Plans."

As was noted in this Committee's Report No. 1 the five churches named as the "founding churches" of the Council have approved participation. In addition, the Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church voted to notify the Council "that we desire full membership and participation in that body," and the chairman of their Committee on Interchurch Relations requested that their church also be regarded as a "founding church" at this constituting meeting of the Council. It was the unanimous opinion of the Interim Committee that since the several churches had approved the Council with specific churches named in its Constitution, and with a specific procedure for receiving additional churches, it was not within the authority of either the Interim Committee or the Council itself to change the procedure that had been accepted by the churches. The Committee informed the ARP Committee, however, that it would inform the Council of their request. A later communication from the ARP Committee states that they "readily accept your assessment of the situation, though we are glad the matter will be brought before the whole Council." They expect to be represented at this meeting in response to your Committee's invitation to send observers. ARP Action

The endeavor to coordinate the time of this meeting of the Council with a meeting of the National Presbyterian and Reformed Fellowship indicates both a commonality and an overlapping of interests between these groups. It is your Committee's judgment that an attempt should be made to avoid duplication of effort and multiplication of meetings, and to achieve cooperation where possible. It is conceivable that the NPRF, having been largely responsible for the birth of NAPARC, may not have as great usefulness in the future. It should be borne in mind, however, that there is a clear difference between the groups in that the NAPARC is an organization of churches and the NPRF is of individuals. NPRF

Two other matters are of concern to this meeting: determining how funds, however minimal, shall be provided for the work of the Council, and the setting of a policy regarding the distribution and preserving of the Council's records. Because the Committee has not been able to meet, it has no recommendations in these matters.

The Committee recommends:

1. That the action of the 1975 Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church to notify the Council "that we desire full membership and participation in that body" be regarded as an application for membership under the provisions of the Constitution, Article V, 2 and 3, that the application be considered at the point specified in the agenda, and that their representatives be welcomed to sit as observers at this meeting. Recommendations

2. That the officers of the Council, with the members of the acting Interim Committee, make recommendations to this meeting of the Council to establish guidelines for possible future discussions with representatives of the NPRF concerning their respective interests and coordination of efforts. ARP Application
NPRF Guidelines

3. That in order to initiate meetings of representatives of the agencies of the churches, as recommended to the major assemblies by the January 22-23, 1975, Joint Committee meeting, the Council urge those agencies whose major assemblies have approved such meetings to endeavor to hold such meetings as soon as possible, appoint a convening agency, and inform all the specified agencies of the Council's churches of this action.

Meetings of Agency Representative

4. That the minutes of the joint meetings of the Interchurch (Fraternal) Relations Committees leading to the establishment of the Council, namely, those of October 25-26 and November 22-23, 1974, and January 22-23, 1975, be bound with those of the Council.

Minutes

Sincerely yours,
John P. Galbraith, Chairman

It was moved and seconded that Recommendation 1 be adopted. It was moved and seconded that the ARPC be granted the status of observer until the next meeting of the Council and that their application be assigned to a committee to verify their qualification, according to Article V, Sec. 2, of the Constitution. It was moved and carried that a committee of five, one appointed by each of the delegations, consider this matter, and also the possibility of charter membership for the ARPC, and report to the Council as the second item of business of the next morning session (cf. item 11-c-i, above). The chairman appointed the PCA representative as convener. Representatives appointed were: CRC, Bratt; OPC, Knight; PCA, Graham; RPCES, Cross; RPCNA, B. C. Stewart. The ARPC delegates were welcomed as observers.

ARP MEMBERSHIP

On motion, Recommendation 2 was adopted.

Rec. 2

Recommendation 3 had been acted on previously (see item 11-a, above).

Rec. 3

On motion, Recommendation 4 was adopted with the deletion of the reference to the meeting of November 1974 (since this was only a sub-committee).

Rec. 4

On motion, it was determined as a matter of policy each member church is to be represented on committees of the Council.

EACH CHURCH ON COMMITTEES

Appreciation was expressed to Mr. Galbraith, as chairman of the Interim Committee, for his preparation of reports and plans for this meeting.

Galbraith

13. The Council took up plans for cooperative activity (see list in item 12, above).

PLANS

a. Study subjects, i. those already completed. On motion it was decided that each delegation should prepare and submit to the Council at its next meeting a list of the completed major reports of its denomination, with references to where it may be found, and that each delegation determine how far back to go chronologically and what constitutes a "major" report.

Study Subjects Send to Council

ii. It was decided, on motion, that each delegation should furnish to the Council at its next meeting a list of topics that are currently under study in its denomination and that these lists be updated annually by each interchurch relations committee.

Under Study

Council Send Index On motion it was decided that the Council should send the index and the list of subjects under study to the stated clerks and to the interchurch relations committees of the respective denominations. Each committee is requested to include this information in its report to its major assembly.

Conf. on Office On motion the Interim Committee was instructed to consider arranging a conference on the subject "Office in the Church."

Recess was taken at 5:30 p.m. The Council reconvened at 7:40 with prayer by Mr. Oliver.

Finances It was moved and carried that a committee of five, one appointed by each delegation, consider procedures for the Council's finances, records, and next meeting (items 9-cont. and 15-17, below), and report to the next morning session. The chairman appointed the CRC representative as convener. Representatives appointed were: CRC, Bel; OPC, Peterson; PCA, Williamson; RPCES, Rayburn; RPCNA, Kilpatrick.

On motion it was decided that the meeting would recess at 8:00 p.m. for committee meetings.

Cooperation. Add RWRC/OP and RPCES 13. b. Areas of cooperation, i. those already engaged in. It was reported that to the list of such areas there should be added under foreign missions, the participation in the CRC's World Relief by the OPC and the RPCES.

Areas of Cooperation

PCA CMW with other evangel. agencies ii. Those areas of cooperation to be explored.--The PCA delegation reported that their church is open to working with other evangelical missionary boards and would appreciate receiving information and that copies should be sent to all members of their Committee on Mission to the World.

Concert of Prayer The PCA delegation also presented their General Assembly's resolution on a concert of prayer, as follows:

WHEREAS, God, in His wise providence, has moved this assembly to participate in the formation of the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council. And;

WHEREAS, part of the purpose and function of the proposed council is to promote the spread of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ both in North America and throughout the world. And;

WHEREAS, a Concert of Prayer by the people of God preceded the Great Awakening in the eighteenth century in North America;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Third General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America urges that the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council, at their first meeting, consider calling for a prolonged Concert of Prayer on the part of the Council's member churches, and especially the elders of those churches, to beseech the Lord God for a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit in abundantly blessing the ministry of the Word of God that many people in North America and throughout the world would be converted and savingly brought into

the Kingdom of God; that the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ would be revived, strengthened and edified; that God would be glorified by a magnificent display of His sovereign grace, so that many people of all nations of the earth would sincerely acknowledge and worship the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord and God, as the only Saviour of sinners, as the Ruler of the kings of the earth, and as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

It was moved and carried to adopt the final paragraph of the PCA's resolution on prayer, with the initial lines reading, "The NAPARC, at their first meeting, call for a prolonged Concert of Prayer on the part of the Council's member churches. . ." (etc.)

Recess was taken at 8:10 p.m., with prayer by Dr. Kromminga, to reconvene at 8:30 a.m. at Geneva College, Beaver Falls. The Council reconvened on November 1, 1975, at 8:35 a.m. at the college, with the singing of Psalm 23 and devotions led by Dr. Clowney.

- 14. Consideration of Item 14, on the relation of NAPARC to the NPRF (see item 12, Recom. 2, above), as well as the docketed continuation of items 11-c-i, on amendment to the constitution, and 12--Recommendation 1, on membership of the ARPC, were postponed to allow duplication of the reports of the committees concerned.

NPRF

- 15. The Committee on Council Procedures presented its report. The following financial recommendations were, on motion, adopted:

FUNDS

That the NAPARC budget for 1975-76 be set at \$500.; for 1976-77, at \$2,500.;

Budget

That the budgets be met by per capita contributions from the member churches, the treasurer to determine the proportions and amounts for each church and to forward his request to the various interchurch relations committees, and that each committee furnish the treasurer with its church's total communicant membership;

That Mr. A. Bel be elected as treasurer and Mr. N. Vander Zee as assistant treasurer;

Treasurer

That the treasurer execute on behalf of the Council any resolution requested by the bank for the opening of a bank account.

Bank Account

The Council set September 1 to August 31 as its fiscal year.

Fiscal Year

- 16. The following secretarial recommendations of the Committee were, on motion, adopted:

That each interchurch relations committee determine the number of copies of NAPARC minutes that it will need and report this figure to the secretary;

MINUTES

Copies of Minutes

That the secretary keep in separate locations two copies of the minutes of each meeting.

- 17. The Committee's recommendation was, on motion, adopted that the next meeting of the Council be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 29-30, 1976.

NEXT MEETING

11-c-i (Cont'd.). The Committee on Amendment to the Constitution presented its report as follows:

AMENDMENT TO CONST. (Cont'd)

Revise
BASIS

Your Committee with regard to the insertion of the phrase in Basis of the Council (Constitution, Sec. II), following, the Word of God, "Including those passages where Scripture speaks of history and the cosmos. . ." recommends the following:

1. That the Council not recommend the proposed amendment at this time, for the following reasons:
 - a. It is difficult to incorporate the words of the proposed amendment smoothly into the words of the "Basis."
 - b. The Council did not have advance notice of the proposed change, and it is unwise to attempt an important revision on short notice.
 - c. The constituent major Assemblies accepted the existing "Basis" less than a half-year ago as an adequate working basis for the Council.
 - d. There is some question as to whether the proposed amendment expresses so succinctly the principal issue with respect to the authority of Scripture, as to justify its adoption as a balanced strengthening of the "Basis."

2. While the word "infallible" was included in the existing "Basis" in order to reflect the high doctrine of Scripture held by the member churches, the Constitution can be improved in the direction of defining more clearly, as this amendment seeks to do, the distinctive character of this fellowship in opposition to modern errors concerning the doctrine of Scripture.

Therefore, we recommend a study committee be appointed in keeping with regulation of the Bylaws (V,1,2) to propose an appropriate revision of the "Basis" to the next meeting of the Council and to provide the respective Inter-Church Committees with a copy of its report and recommendations three months in advance of the Council meeting.

No action
now

On motion Recommendation 1 was adopted in the following form: That the Council not recommend to the member churches the proposed amendment at this time.

Appoint
Study
COM.

On motion Recommendation 2 was adopted. The chairman appointed the RPNA representative as convener. Representatives appointed are: CRC, *J. Krumpholtz*, OPC, Clowney; PCA, *J. Robertson* RPCEs, Harris; RPCNA, *S. B. Willson*; (CRC and PCA are to report their appointees to ~~B. C. Stewart~~ as chairman of the RPNA Committee).
S. Bruce Willson

NPRF

14. The Committee to Establish Guidelines for Future Discussions with the National Presbyterian and Reformed Fellowship submitted its report as follows:

NPRF
(Contd.)

Your Committee has sought to distinguish between the respective Purposes and Functions of the NPRF and NAPARC on the basis of the statements of their constitutions. In the judgment of the Committee the distinctions are as follows:

Purposes

NPRF: Provide encouragement and mutual assistance among individuals who are in Reformed churches and Reformed individuals in other churches.

NAPARC: Enable the constituent churches to advise, counsel, and cooperate with each other, as churches, and to hold out the goal of union.

Functions

NPRF: Bring members together in colloquia for instruction and inspiration, to enlarge the fellowship, and to enter into broader kingdom matters (e.g., politics, education, and economics).

NAPARC: Consult and cooperate in those matters that are uniquely ecclesiastical.

Your Committee also wishes to point out that the two organizations have obligations to each other. NPRF should, for example, encourage its members to pray for the NAPARC churches and to seek ways for its members to express more fully a pure witness to the Word of God. And NAPARC should encourage the members of its churches to aid the NPRF in achieving its stated purpose.

In conclusion, your Committee recommends:

1. That the Council express its appreciation to the NPRF for gathering into Reformed fellowship Christian people of Reformed commitment who had had little such fellowship, and for laying the groundwork for the foundation of this Council;

2. That the Council express its appreciation for the initiative of the NPRF in conceiving of a Congress as a witness of the Reformed faith to the world and suggest to the NPRF that it make specific plans for the Congress and report them to the Interchurch Relations Committees of the NAPARC churches for their support and inclusion in their reports to their synods/general assemblies; and

3. That a copy of this report be sent to the Board of NPRF with an invitation to consult with the Council's Interim Committee which shall report to the Council with recommendations.

Respectfully submitted, (Signed) Bratt, Galbraith, Oliver, Payne, Smith

On motion Recommendation 1 was adopted.

Rec. 1

On motion Recommendation 2 was adopted.

Rec. 2

On motion Recommendation 3 was adopted in the following form: That an invitation be sent to the Board of NPRF to consult with the Council's Interim Committee, which shall report to the Council.

Rec. 3
Amended

18. The Committee on Application for Membership submitted its report as follows:

Your NAPARC Advisory Committee was appointed with a mandate to advise the Council re the processing of the ARPC application for membership in NAPARC.

MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION

ARP

Your Committee recommends:

1. That the ARPC application for membership be received for consideration by NAPARC and its constituent members in accord with the provisions of the Constitution, Article V, 2 and 3.

2. That the application of the ARPC be processed as follows:

a. A committee of the member churches shall be appointed to consult with the leadership of the ARPC (including the Interchurch Relations Committee) to express our gratitude for their application and to obtain the acquaintance and understanding of the Reformed character of the ARPC necessary to make a meaningful recommendation.

- b. The Committee report shall be presented to NAPARC and to the interchurch relations committees of its member churches to assist in the decisions re the acceptance of the ARPC.
- c. NAPARC invites and urges the ARPC to send observers to our meetings during the processing.

Grounds:

- 1. With the exception of a recent relationship with the PCA, the constituent members of NAPARC have had little acquaintance and no ecclesiastical fellowship with the ARPC.
- 2. A fuller mutual acquaintance will be helpful both to the ARPC and NAPARC and will make the contemplated membership more meaningful for both.

Rec. 1 On motion Recommendation 1 was adopted with deletion of the words "and its constituent members."

Rec. 2 On motion Recommendation 2, with Grounds, was adopted. The chairman appointed the PCA representative as convener of this committee. Representatives appointed by their respective delegations were: CRC, *J. Pratt*; OPC, Oliver; PCA, *Henry Debutte*; RPCES, Cross; RPCNA, *Bruce Stewart*.

19. a. The OPC delegation reported that on the instruction of the OP General Assembly ^{*authorized to begin*} they were initiating exploratory conversations toward church unity with the other BUSINESS member denominations of NAPARC and with the RCUS (Eureka Classis). They also reported that, as a result of a joint meeting with the RPCES Fraternal Relations Committee held on the previous day, both groups were petitioning their major assemblies for authority to initiate three-way talks, including the PCA, concerning possible church union.

b. It was moved and seconded that a committee representing each member body in the Council be instructed to consider the problems and prospects of eventual union of the member bodies. It was moved and carried that the motion be laid on the table.

The Council decided to continue without recess until business was finished.

Interim Com. c. Nominations were opened for the election of two additional members to the 1975-76 Interim Committee (Bylaws VI). Nominated were: J. White, P. Robertson, and M. H. Smith. Dr. Robertson requested that his name be withdrawn. On motion his request was granted, the nominations were closed, and J. White and M. Smith were declared elected.

ADJOURNED

Adjourned 20. The Council adjourned at 12:45 p.m., with appreciation being expressed to the 1975 chairman, Mr. Galbraith, for his effective moderating, and with prayer by the chairman.

Respectfully submitted,

J. B. Payne, Secretary

bip
11/25/75