

1916

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTY-SIXTH
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

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Presbyterian Church

IN THE

UNITED STATES

WITH

AN APPENDIX

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A. D. 1916

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RICHMOND, VA.

PRESBYTERIAN COMMITTEE OF PUBLICATION

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John F. Cannon, D. D.; Rev. Homer McMillan, D. D.; Rev. S. H. Chester, D. D.; Rev. J. R. Howerton, D. D.; Hon. C. P. Janney.

4. The report of the Committee appointed by the General Assembly of 1911 on the World Conference on Faith and Order.

This report indicates progress, but that the work of the Committee has not been completed.

We recommend, therefore, that the Assembly approve this report, and that the Committee be continued for another year.

5. The Assembly has heard with pleasure the addresses of Rev. Dr. Chas. S. Macfarland, General Secretary of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, and of Rev. Dr. Wm. States Jacobs, a member of the Executive Committee of the Council from our Church, and there have also been placed in our hands the Annual Reports of the Council, together with certain other communications from that body.

It will be remembered that the General Assembly of last year placed on record its protest against certain actions of the Federal Council that were deemed to be in violation of our distinctive principles and historic position. See pages 39 and 40 of the Minutes for 1915.

We gather from representations made to the Assembly, and from the reports of the Council of 1915, that it is the desire of the Council to adjust satisfactorily the matters complained of, but inasmuch as it appears that the action of our Assembly was not laid formally and directly before the Council, and inasmuch as it is a matter of vital importance that we should have a definite and official reply from the Council with reference to these matters, if we are to continue to co-operate cordially in the work of the Council, we recommend that the Assembly repeat the protest of last year and direct the Stated Clerk to transmit this action to the Federal Council, and that, pending a reply, action looking to a withdrawal of our Church from the Council be deferred for one year. The Assembly also requests our representatives in the Council to take charge of this protest and see that it is properly presented.

We recommend further that the Assembly appoint a Permanent Committee of three members, to be known as the Committee on Federation and Comity, that shall be the official channel of communication between the Federal Council and our Assembly, and we would suggest as members of this Committee: Rev. Melton Clark, D. D., Rev. Wm. Crowe, D. D., and Rev. J. C. Molloy, D. D.

We would call the attention of the Assembly to the fact that there is a vacancy in our representation in the Council, due to the death of the Rev. John W. Stagg, D. D.

We recommend that the Chairman of this Committee, Rev. R. F. Kirkpatrick, D. D., be elected in his stead.

R. F. KIRKPATRICK, *Chairman.*

PROTEST.

A protest, signed by Rev. W. McF. Alexander, D. D., and others, against the action of the Assembly on Woman's Position in the Church, was presented and admitted to record:

We, the undersigned members of the Assembly of 1916, do respectfully protest against the action taken by the Assembly on the report of the Ad-Interim Committee on Woman's Position in the Church, for the following reasons:

1st. It reverses the historic position of the Presbyterian Church, U. S., on this subject without Scriptural warrant therefor. Such passages as I Cor. 14:34-35, "Let your women keep silence in the churches; for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church." I Timothy 2:11-12, "Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence," which passages seem to forbid women praying or exhorting in mixed audiences.

2nd. Because the action of this Assembly, by good and necessary inference, seems to put its endorsement upon our women's praying and exhorting in mixed assemblies, leaving the expediency of this privilege to be determined by individual Sessions. This appeal to the Sessions to decide instead of the Assembly will break the unity of the practice of the Church.

3rd. Because the Word of God and not expediency is the only infallible rule of faith and practice. The Confession of Faith, Chapter I, Section X, reads: "The supreme judge by which all controversies of religion are to be determined and all decrees of councils, opinions of ancient writers, doctrines of men and private spirits are to be examined, and in whose sentence we are to rest, can be no other but the Holy Spirit speaking in the Scriptures."

4th. Because it is in opposition to paragraph 313 of the Directory of Worship, and we call the attention of the Church to this paragraph, which reads: "It is earnestly recommended that the male members be encouraged to lead in public prayer."

W. McF. Alexander	P. S. Crane	J. N. Corbett
H. J. Mills	W. H. Workman	W. A. Hall
Geo. A. Blackburn	Neil McLeod	J. C. Calhoun
J. D. McLean	V. H. Starbuck	E. W. Comfort
R. S. Yoakum	S. H. Price	A. M. McLaughlin
C. C. Beam	L. F. Ross	C. P. Colmery
C. P. McNeill	David E. East	H. M. Jenkins
J. L. Williams	M. J. McInnis	W. W. Wood
J. C. Molloy	Andrew Wallace	N. L. Lowrance
R. P. Williams	R. A. McLeod	R. M. Clayton
L. L. Moore	F. T. Snyder	C. Z. Berryhill
F. W. Gray	E. W. McCorkle	D. F. Fulton
H. S. Davidson	T. S. Wilson	Peter H. See
R. M. Stimson	J. H. Smith	Geo. W. Oldham
J. T. Barr	H. H. Newman	J. W. Rinehart
C. R. Stribling	B. H. Owen	E. L. Smith
J. G. Richards	J. M. Hull	R. K. Robinson
W. W. Carson	J. E. Bader	W. M. Lee
Alex. McDonald	F. C. Talmage	R. G. Matheson
W. L. Barber	T. H. Brown	J. P. Watt
		E. S. Miller

Rev. Neal L. Anderson, D. D., Rev. J. L. Mauze, D. D., Rev. Trigg A. M. Thomas, and Mr. R. E. Magill were appointed a Select Committee to answer the protest.