

Reformed Presbyterian and Covenanter.

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

SESSION LIX.

ALLEGHENY CITY, PA.,
Tuesday, May 29, 1888. }

The Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church met pursuant to adjournment in the Central Church, Allegheny City, Pa., at 7.30 P. M. The retiring Moderator, Rev. Prof. D. B. Willson, preached a sermon on "Prayer for Ministers," founded on I. Thess. 5: 25, and then constituted the court in prayer.

Synod adjourned at 9 P. M., to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Wednesday's Proceedings.

MORNING SESSION.

Synod assembled at the appointed hour, and was constituted with prayer by the retiring Moderator, Rev. Prof. D. B. Willson.

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

ROLL OF SYNOD.

ILLINOIS PRESBYTERY.

CONGREGATIONS.	MINISTERS.	ELDERS.
Bethel,	D. S. Faris,	John E. Willson.
Bloomington,	D. J. Shaw,	John M. Faris.
Princeton,		J. E. Carithers.
Elkhorn,	D. G. Thompson,	
Old Bethel,		James Mathews.
St. Louis,	} E. M. Smith,	John Ingram.
Staunton,		G. M. Elliott,
Selma,	John Teaz,	J. H. Pickens.

In conclusion, I would earnestly request that you formulate some plan of operations that I may know my geographical limits, what relation I bear to others in the same field, and what privileges I should have in organizing, dispensing sealing ordinances, and such duties as present themselves to a missionary removed from regular sessions of the church.

Very respectfully submitted,

J. MILLIGAN WYLIE.

Report of Rev. S. M. Elliott.

To the Central Board of Missions :

DEAR SIRS :—In submitting my annual report, I would say that I have nothing specially new to present. My work has been much the same as in other years, except with more concentration of effort. It has been strictly pastoral and missionary. Since the beginning of the present year I have given myself wholly to the preaching of the word, and to Sabbath School work. Up till that time I did some journalistic work in connection with my regular pastoral duties. About the middle of December I was taken down with pneumonia, which laid me aside from the pulpit seven consecutive Sabbaths. Since that time my health has been good, and I have felt strong for the work. I have done much visiting—more than heretofore—making the Sabbath School my radiating point. Experience teaches me that I can work most successfully in building up the congregation through the Sabbath School, and the Sabbath School is largely built up through the day school. Each Sabbath School teacher is required to report every Sabbath the Scholars that are absent, and during the week I visit these, either in person or through the teacher. In this way we keep trace of the children, and it keeps up the standard of attendance, as well as adds new scholars. I find this plan gives me all the visiting I can do. It also brings me into daily contact with the parents of our children. Just here I would say that in this line a city missionary could be incalculably useful. We have long felt the need of such a worker in this field. What is needed is a house to house missionary—one whose work will oscillate, as it were, between the school and the Sabbath School and the congregation—co-operating with both at points where the work coincides. This plan will tend to round out the work in its operations. We trust that another year the way will be open to have such an accession to the work.

A large number of the parents of these children that attend our Sabbath School are members of other churches. They frequently attend our preaching. In visiting their children we have an opportunity to know their opinion of our church and their conceptions of truth.

In the past year I have confined my work exclusively to the city and its suburbs. I have not made one mission trip outside of the city. I have found plenty to do. Our present Sabbath School enrollment is 170. The attendance during the year has been good, but there is no Sabbath when all are present. There is no Sabbath when all the members of the congregation are present, hence I have an abundance of pastoral work each week. Besides pulpit preparation and pastoral work, I find constant draughts upon my time for things that no plan can foresee. In a field like this one cannot follow the best devised plan, for his time is never his own. Letters from all parts of the church are constantly received, and many of them require quite full replies, especially those from ladies' missionary societies. It usually takes all of my spare time on Mondays to close up my correspondence. Then oftentimes through the week letters are received that require immediate attention.

As far as I could command time, I have aimed during the year to devote more time than formerly to solid, conscientious study of the Word of God, with a view to better fitness for better service in the Master's work. More and more I see the need of adapting the words to men's hearts, circumstances and lives. This cannot be done without as thorough a knowledge of the Bible as it is possible for one to gain. I find I must study men and the Scriptures together.

Since my last report I have received eleven persons into church membership. Six were from other churches and five from the world. We have enjoyed two happy communions, at each of which there were accessions to the congregation.

These make our present membership eighty-one. I have recently purged the roll of the congregation, and the result is as above stated.

Our Sabbath services are as follows: At 9:30 A. M., we hold our Sabbath School, in which the regular International Lesson is taught, and also the shorter Catechism. At 11 A. M., there is the regular morning service, including explanation of Psalm and lecture. I began lecturing in Proverbs in July, 1886, and have advanced as far as the sixteenth chapter and twenty-sixth verse, embodying sixty-three lectures. In the afternoon at 2 o'clock, we have the Catechumen Class when the full time is devoted to the study of the different grades of the Catechism. We have had no class in the Confession of Faith and Testimony this year. At 3 o'clock I preach a sermon. These constitute the service of every Lord's Day. At all of these I can say the attendance has been gratifying.

During the week we have, on Monday, a young men's meeting, designed mainly as a teachers' meeting for the members that cannot be at the regular teachers' meeting. This is also a prayer-meeting. On Wednesday night is the regular congregational prayer-meeting. Friday at 3 o'clock I meet the Sabbath School teachers for the study of the lesson. There are special meetings besides these, such as that of the Young Peoples' Christian Working Band, and the Ladies' Missionary Society, but I do not meet with these except by invitation. They have their own plans and methods.

In concluding my report I would express thanks to the Head of the Church:

1. For the general good health that I have enjoyed.
3. For what he has enabled us as a congregation to do, though we have not come up to what we have desired.
2. "We would rejoice in the open doors that are before us for prosecuting the Lord's work. As the years go by we see more and stronger reasons for the church persevering in this work, and for widening the base, and for increasing the laborers.

4. In doing this there is need of more faith, more prayer, more of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, more means, more laborers. He for whom we labor has promised all these. He tells us to ask and we shall receive. "Pray ye, therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest." Yours in covenant bonds,

SELMA, ALA., May 23d, 1888.

G. M. ELLIOTT.

Annual Report of Rev. J. W. Dill, 1887—1888.

To Central Board of Missions:

This my first annual report of my department of the R. P. Mission at Selma, Alabama, is respectfully submitted.

After prayerful consideration, your appointment of myself as Assistant Principal of Knox Academy was regarded as a call from the Head of the Church and so accepted, though requiring us to separate from a united and devoted people, to whom six years of pastoral relationship had attached us with strong bonds of Christian love.

We as a family arrived in Selma, Oct., 8, 1887 and I entered upon my work in the school, Oct. 10, and served as assistant principal until the 1st of December, when Mr. Reed's resignation caused the management of the Institution to rest on me. Since that time I have, as well as I can, served as principal, in the place to which you elected me.

The number of departments, when I took charge, besides principal's work, were seven and a teacher for each. Though our force was reduced two in number, viz: Mr. Reed and the teacher of number three discontinued December 1st by the board, yet the original number of departments were carried through the school year of eight months, four weeks to the month. We felt that the work could not be curtailed without much detriment to the school.

I supplied No. 3 by continuing Miss Marshall through December, paying her twelve dollars. From Jan. 1st to May, one of our advanced pupils taught full time for which she received \$10.00 per month, and did good work, the pupils making good progress. Miss Hatcher desiring to review her studies the last month, I secured the services of J. H. Pickens at the same amount, \$10.00 from the Fox fund.