

ORGANIZING MEETING OF GRACE PRESBYTERY

On July 17, 1973 at Westminster Camp, approximately 10 miles south of Monticello, Mississippi, following dismissal from the Presbytery of South Mississippi, Presbyterian Church, U. S., the following churches and ministers met and formed a new Presbytery in the "Continuing Church" movement:

CHURCHES

Name	Represented By
Crystal Springs, First	W. Arnold Lee
Ellisville, Ellisville	W. D. Carmichael
Gloster, Bethany	Dewitt Smylie
Gloster, Hoyte Memorial	Larry C. Mills (voting for Session)
Leakesville, Leakesville	Sherman Powell
Magee, Magee	M. A. Yelverton
Magee, Sharon	James O. Yelverton
Mize, Calvary	C. G. McCallum
Mount Olive, Mount Olive	John W. McNair
Picayune, First	W. B. Herrington
Prentiss, Prentiss	F. W. Tripp (voting for Session)
Taylorville, First	Max Kennedy, Sr.
Woodville, First	James E. Wilkerson

MINISTERS

Norman A. Bagby, Jr., Sharon, Magee
Bill Combs, First, Picayune
Joe Gardner, Jr., Mount Olive, Mount Olive
Doyle Hulse, Ellisville, Ellisville
Ron Swafford, First, Taylorville
F. W. Tripp, Prentiss, Prentiss

VISITING BROTHERS

The following were also present at the forming of the new Presbytery but did not have the authority to vote:

Ed Cunningham, student Pastor at Magee, Magee; M. F. Little, Alternate from Calvary, Mize; Robert M. Neill, Alternate from Ellisville, Ellisville; Guy Oliver, Professor at Reformed Seminary, Jackson; Harold Richardson, Student Pastor at First, Woodville; L. B. Stockett, Jr., Alternate from First, Woodville; Byron Snapp, student Pastor at Leakesville, Leakesville; and A. C. Yllander, Alternate from Bethany, Gloster.

CONSTITUTING PRAYER

The meeting of the new Presbytery was constituted with prayer by Rev. Bill Combs at 5:15 P.M.

MODERATOR PRO TEM

Rev. Bill Combs was elected Moderator Pro Tem by acclamation.

CLERK PRO TEM

Rev. Norman A. Bagby, Jr. was elected Clerk Pro Tem by acclamation.

RESOLUTION TO FORM PRESBYTERY

The following resolution was read by Rev. Larry C. Mills; and signed as indicated after adoption:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, we, the undersigned, are agreed that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice; and,
WHEREAS, we are agreed that the Westminster Confession of Faith (in the edition published in 1973 by the Steering Committee for a Continuing Presbyterian Church) and the Westminster Larger and Shorter Catechisms set forth the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures; and,
WHEREAS, we are agreed that the mission of the Church has been given her by the Lord Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, and is to make disciples of all nations and to teach them all things whatsoever He has commanded; and,
WHEREAS, The Book of Church Order (in the revised 1933 edition published in 1973 by the Steering Committee for a Continuing Presbyterian Church) sets forth a reasonable and practical formular for church organization (although we do not regard the quota of three ministers necessary for a quorum of presbytery to be in effect until there are at least four minister members of our presbytery); and,
WHEREAS, the appended statement "Rights of Particular Churches in Relation to the Denomination and Its Courts" is adopted by us as setting forth principles of Presbyterian government essential to our agreement, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED,

- 1. That we, the undersigned, do covenant together to form an association to be known as Grace Presbytery; and,
2. That this association shall have as its purpose to perpetuate the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ as it is proclaimed in the Scriptures and declared in the Westminster standards; and,
3. That we, the undersigned, met in James, Miss. at 5:45 P.M. on July 17, 1973. City State Time

1st CH. TAYLORSVILLE, MISS KENNEDY SR. PRETTISS - F.W. TRIPP
Columb. Miss C. G. McCallum
MAD LIVES PRES. SHANNON
Joe C. Gardner Jr.
Bethany Presbyterian Church
Washville Presbyterian Church
Church of the Redeemer

Having read the above resolution and agreeing to its statement of principles, I (we) desire to unite with _____ Presbytery and become a charter member along with the original signers of the Resolution.

Sherman Powell, Leesville Miss
Gil G. Lamb, Prichard, Miss

Moved by F. W. Tripp and seconded by Sherman Powell: The above resolution and appendix were adopted.

The following resolution was also adopted for the benefit of those churches who do not become charter members but who at some future date might desire to join this Presbytery:

A RESOLUTION TO JOIN _____ PRESBYTERY

WHEREAS, we the congregation of _____ Presbyterian Church of _____, seeking fellowship with others of like faith, and;

WHEREAS, we affirm that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice, and;

WHEREAS, we affirm that the Westminster Confession of Faith and Larger and Shorter Catechisms as adopted in 1881 set forth the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures, and;

WHEREAS, these matters are also affirmed by the _____ Presbytery, and;

WHEREAS, we likewise agree with their accepting the Book of Church Order in the revised 1933 edition and with their principles on "Rights of Particular Churches in Relationship to the Denomination and Its Courts," and;

WHEREAS, we seek to be truly Presbyterian and to enter into a presbytery with other churches agreed with us on the Word of God and the Reformed faith;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the congregation of the _____ Presbyterian Church, _____

do hereby vote to unite with the _____ Presbytery.

The foregoing resolution was adopted by a vote of _____ ayes and _____ noes at a duly called meeting on _____ day of _____ 1973.

Clerk of Session

NAMING OF PRESBYTERY

The following names were suggested as names for the new Presbytery: New Kirk, Omega, and Grace. New Kirk received three votes, Omega one vote, and Grace fourteen votes. It was then moved that the name "Grace" be adopted unanimously. Adopted.

FIRST STATED MEETING

Moved that the First Stated Meeting of "Grace Presbytery" be held at Mount Olive Presbyterian Church, September 6, 1973 (a Thursday) at 10:00 A.M. Approved.

EXAMINING COMMITTEE

Moved that the Moderator and the Clerk appoint an examining committee. Approved.

STANDING RULES COMMITTEE

Moved that the Moderator and the Clerk be the Standing Rules Committee to set up basic standing rules by which to operate the Presbytery. Approved. Larry C. Mills to be Advisory member.

NOTIFICATIONS TO PAPERS

Moved that the Clerk Pro Tem send picture and information concerning the formation of "Grace Presbytery" to the appropriate news media. Approved.

ADJOURNMENT

The organizing meeting of "Grace Presbytery" was adjourned with prayer by Rev. Larry C. Mills at 5:55 P.M. To God be the Glory.

ATTESTED BY:
/S/ Bill Combs
Rev. Bill Combs
Moderator Pro Tem

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:
/S/ Rev. Norman A. Bagby, Jr.
Rev. Norman A. Bagby, Jr.
Clerk Pro Tem

APPENDIX A

RIGHTS OF PARTICULAR CHURCHES in Relation to the Denomination and its Courts.

- a. The corporation of a particular church, through its duly elected trustees or corporation officers, (or, unincorporated, through those who are entitled to represent the particular church in matters related to real property shall have sole title to its real property, and shall be sole owner of any equity it may have in any real estate. No superior court, as such, shall have any claim whatsoever upon any real property or any equity in any real estate, or any fund or property of any kind held by or belonging to any particular church, or any board, society, committee, Sunday School, class or branch thereof. The superior courts of the church may receive monies or properties from a local church only by free and voluntary action of the latter.
- b. All particular churches shall be entitled to hold, own, and enjoy their own local properties, without any right of revision whatsoever to any presbytery, synod, or any other courts hereafter created, its trustees or other officers.
- c. The provisions of this chapter are to be construed as a solemn covenant whereby the Church as a whole promises never to attempt to secure possession of the property of any congregation against its will, whether or not such congregation remains within or chooses to withdraw from its body. All officers and courts of the Church are hereby prohibited from making any such attempt. The provisions of this section are unamendable and irrevocable.
- d. Particular churches need remain in association with Presbytery, synod, or any other courts hereafter created, only so long as they themselves so desire. The relationship is voluntary, based only upon mutual love and confidence, and is in no sense to be maintained by the exercise of any kind of force or coercion whatsoever. A particular church may withdraw from its presbytery, synod, or any other court hereafter created, at any time for reasons which seem to it sufficient, by orderly ballot at a legal meeting of its congregation or corporation. A simple majority of those present and voting shall decide the issue.