

Session XIV. — 1830.

————— .. —————

Pittsburgh, August 4, 1830.

The Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church met pursuant to adjournment, and was opened with a sermon by the Rev. Hugh McMillan, the alternate of the Rev. James Christie the former Moderator, who was not present, from Rom. 1:16, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ." After the sermon, and the constitution of Synod, on motion adjourned till tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock. The Moderator concluded with prayer.

—————

Eodem loco. Thursday, Aug. 5, 1830.

Synod met and was constituted agreeably to adjournment. The court then proceeded to ascertain the members of the present Synod, when there appeared duly certified from the —

————— Northern Presbytery. —————		
Ministers.	Elders.	Congregations.
Moses Roney	— — — —	Newburgh.
James R. Willson	— — — —	Coldenham.
John N. McLeod	— — — —	Galway & Broad Albin.
Samuel M. Willson	— — — —	— — — —
————— Philadelphia Presbytery. —————		
Samuel B. Wylie	Robert Orr	Philadelphia.
Samuel W. Crawford	— — — —	Conococheague.
————— Pittsburgh Presbytery. —————		
John Black.	Robert Campbell	Pittsburgh.
Thomas C. Guthrie	William Hutchman	Pine Creek, Union, etc.
Jonathan Gill	Ebenezer Gill	Thompson's Run & Puckety.
John Cannon	Thomas Gemmell	Greensburg.
Robert Wallace	John Jamison	Salt Creek.
— — — —	Nathan Johnston	Greenfield.
— — — —	Nathaniel Kirkpatrick	Utica.
— — — —	John Scott	Little Beaver.
Gavin McMillan	— — — —	Beech Woods.
Robert Gibson	— — — —	— — — —
James Blackwood	— — — —	— — — —

Western Presbytery.		
Samuel Wylie	Thomas G. Armour	Bethel.
John Kell	- - - -	Princeton.
Ebenezer Cooper	- - - -	Elk River.

1. Rev. Samuel Wylie was chosen Moderator; Rev. John Black was continued Clerk; and Rev. Samuel W. Crawford was appointed Assistant Clerk.

2. A letter was received from the Rev. James Christie, and read. This letter accounted for his absence on the present occasion. His reasons were sustained.

The Court then adjourned till 4 o'clock, P.M.

Eodem die et loco. 4 o'clock, P.M.

The Court met pursuant to adjournment, and was called to order by the moderator. Same members ut supra.

1. Rev. S. B. Wylie from the Philadelphia Presbytery, and Rev. John N. McLeod from the Northern Presbytery, appeared duly certified and took their seats.

2. On motion, the Revs. William Sloane, Hugh McMillan, and Charles B. McKee being present, were invited to sit in Synod as consultative members.

3. The following Committees were then appointed:

Unfinished Business: Revs. S. W. Crawford, John Cannon, Robert Wallace; with ruling elder William Hutchman.

Presbyterial Reports: Revs. S. M. Willson, John Kell, James Blackwood; with ruling elders John Jamison and Thomas Gemmell.

Discipline: Revs. John Black, S. B. Wylie, J. R. Willson ; with ruling elder Robert Campbell.

Theological Seminary: Revs. John Black, J. N. McLeod, Gavin McMillan; with ruling elders Robert Orr, Thomas Gemmell and T. G. Armour.

Foreign Correspondence: Revs. J. R. Willson, S. W. Crawford and Moses Roney.

Signs of the Times: Revs. Gavin McMillan, Jonathan Gill, Robert Gibson; with ruling elders Robert Campbell and John Jamison.

Travelling Expenses: Rev. T. C. Guthrie; with ruling elders Robert Orr, William Hutchman and T. G. Armour.

4. Resolved, That the contingent fund for the present

session be committed to the Committee on Travelling Expenses.

5. Synod agree that the amount of the travelling expenses and for the contingent fund be now rendered, and the money afterwards given to the Committee on Travelling Expenses. And that as each member is called, he be required to state the number of miles he is distant from this place. On being called the statement is as follows: —

Delegate.	Paid In.	Miles.	
James R. Willson	\$ 18.20	500	
Samuel M. Willson	—	400	
John N. McLeod	20.33	550	
Moses Roney	15.00	400	
Samuel B. Wylie	60.68	300	
John Black	30.00	—	
John Cannon	16.25	30	
Robert Wallace	6.00	130	
Gavin McMillan	8.00	300	
Jonathan Gill	5.00	18	
Thomas C. Guthrie	15.00	16	
Walnut Ridge cong.	10.00	—	
Samuel Wylie	13.87½	700	
Cannonsburgh cong.	10.00	—	
John Kell	12.62½	550	
Hugh McMillan	8.50	250	
Ebenezer Cooper	—	850	
John Scott	—	40	
William Sloane	—	—	
Robert Gibson	—	—	
James Blackwood	—	—	

Adjourned till tomorrow at 9 o'clock A.M.

Eodem loco. August 6, 1830.

Synod met and was constituted. Same members ut antea. After calling the roll, the Minutes of the former sederunt were read and approved.

1. Papers were then called for and read.
2. A letter from the Reformed Presbyterian Synod of Ireland.
3. Two letters from the Rev. Alexander Clarke, a missionary of the Irish Synod in New Brunswick.
4. A letter from the Scotch Synod, accompanied with two documents marked 1 and 2.
5. A letter to this Synod from the Rev. Alexander McLeod, written from Aberdeen, Scotland.
6. A communication from the Associate Reformed Synod of New York.

On motion adjourned till 4 o'clock, P.M.

The Moderator concluded by prayer.

Eodem die et loco. 4 o'clock, P.M.

Synod met according to adjournment. Same members ut supra.

1. A letter from the New York congregation was received and read. It contained a check on the Mechanic's Bank of New York for \$35.00, a contribution for the Synodical funds. It was referred to the Committee on Traveling Expenses.

2. The Committee on Unfinished Business reported.

3. Inquiry was made whether the fast and thanksgiving days, appointed by last Synod, had been observed in the several congregations. Answered in the affirmative.

4. Rev. John Black was inquired at if the Committee for publishing the Minutes had complied with their appointment. Answered in the affirmative.

5. The publication of the Book of Discipline. This was postponed until the next meeting of Synod.

6. The Theological Seminary. This consideration was postponed until the next meeting of Synod. The Argumentative Part of the Testimony was also postponed till next Synod.

7. Inquiry was made of the Clerk of Synod whether the money was received for publishing the Minutes. He answered that it was, but there were many delinquents in the subscription for a certain number of copies. The Clerk is ordered to make out a list tomorrow stating the delinquents in the subscription for copies.

8. The order of the day for tomorrow is the receiving of

Presbyterial reports.

9. A call upon Mr. John Fisher from a congregation in South Carolina, was read and laid on the table. Mr. Fisher and the call were referred to the Northern Presbytery.

10. A petition from Knoxville, Tenn. was received, praying for a supply of ordinances. It was referred to a Committee consisting of Revs. Alex. McLeod, John Kell and S. B. Wylie.

Adjourned till tomorrow at 9 o'clock A.M.

The Moderator concluded with prayer.

Eodem loco. Aug. 7, 1830.

Synod met and was constituted. Same members ut antea. After the calling of the roll, the Minutes of yesterday were read and approved. The order of the day was the receiving of Presbyterial reports.

1. The Northern Presbytery presented their report, accompanied with a petition respecting the resuscitation of the Theological Seminary. On motion the report was accepted, and referred to the Committee on Presbyterial Reports, and the petition to the Committee on the Theological Seminary.

2. The Philadelphia Presbytery reported. Their report was accepted and referred to the Committee on Presbyterial Reports.

3. The Pittsburgh Presbytery reported. Accepted and referred.

4. The Western Presbytery reported. Accepted and referred.

5. As there was no report made from the Southern Presbytery, the Rev. Hugh McMillan was called on to state what he knew of their concerns. From his report it appeared that the Rev. Thomas Donnelly did not consider himself as a member of the Southern Presbytery nor under its control ; but that by some act of Synod he was immediately accountable to it, and under its cognizance solely. On motion a Committee was appointed to report to Synod on the affairs of the church in the South. The Committee consists of Revs. S. B. Wylie, John Cannon and Moses Roney.

6. Rev. J. R. Willson, Chairman of the Special Committee to report on our relations with the Federal and State Governments, presented a report. The report was made the order of the day for Monday next.

Adjourned to meet on Monday at 10 o'clock, A.M.

The Moderator concluded with prayer.

Eodem loco. Monday, Aug. 9, 1830.

The Court met pursuant to adjournment and was called to order by the Moderator. Same members ut antea. The roll was called. The Minutes were read and approved.

1. Rev. J. R. Willson read a letter addressed to this Synod from the congregation of York, New York.

2. A paper, accompanied with documents from the Temperance Society of Pittsburgh, requesting this Synod to express an opinion on the subject of Temperance, was received and read. Whereupon the Court adopted the following resolution: —

Resolved, That this Synod highly approve of the Temperance cause, and recommend it to the attention of all under their care. The Clerk of this Court is ordered to transmit to the Pittsburgh Temperance Society a copy of the above resolution.

3. The Committee on Foreign Correspondence reported. The letter was approved and laid on the table.

4. The Committee on the affairs of the South made the following report with resolutions: —

Your Committee having diligently attended to all the documents bearing upon Mr. Donnelly's case, find no transaction of Synod justifying Mr. Donnelly's course of independence. Therefore, however reluctantly, they are compelled to consider his behavior in the premises as being altogether unpresbyterial. Your Committee would, therefore, recommend to Synod the adoption of the following resolution, viz: —

Resolved, That the Rev. Thomas Donnelly shall, as in duty bound, consider himself subject to Presbyterial authority and be attached to the Western Presbytery, and by this deed he is so attached, until such time as God in his providence allow the Southern Presbytery to be re-organized. In the meantime until the Western Presbytery shall have had an opportunity of transmitting Mr. Donnelly this order, he shall preach as usual on the invitation of the people.

5. In reference to the case of the Rev. Hugh McMillan, at present an unlocated minister under the inspection of Synod, your Committee beg leave to recommend the following resolution, viz: —

Resolved, That the Rev. Hugh McMillan be connected with the Pittsburgh Presbytery at his own and their request.

The Synod adopt the above report and resolutions. The Clerk of Synod is directed to send one copy of this report to Mr. Donnelly, and another to Mr. Daniel McMillan.

6. The order of the day was the hearing of the report of the Committee on our civil relations to the Federal and State Governments. Dr. Willson read the report, on which some discussion took place, when the Court adjourned till 4 o'clock P.M.

The Moderator concluded with prayer.

Eodem die et loco. 4 o'clock, P.M.

Synod met pursuant to adjournment, and was called to order by the Moderator. Same members ut supra.

The consideration of the report was resumed. After a great deal of discussion it was moved and seconded that this report be referred to the next meeting of Synod. Moved, as an amendment, that in the meantime it be printed. This amendment was lost. It was again moved, as an amendment, that it be committed to a Committee consisting of Revs. Drs. McLeod, Wylie, McMaster and Black, critically to examine it, and, if they seem meet, to publish it as an Overture, before the next meeting of Synod. Carried, with this amendment.

Adjourned till 10 o'clock A.M. tomorrow.

The Moderator concluded by prayer.

Eodem loco. 10 o'clock, A.M. Aug, 10, 1830.

The Court met and was constituted. Same members ut antea.

1. On motion, it was agreed that the Committee on civil relations be added to the Committee to which was committed the report of that Committee.

2. The Committee on Presbyterial Reports reported. This report was not sustained but recommitted to the same Committee to make it more full.

3. The Committee on the Signs of the Times were discharged, and the causes of fasting and thanksgiving of last year were adopted, and the ministers severally allowed

to make such additions as they may think proper. The days to be the same as in the act of last year.

4. The Synod agree that the rule of Synod, in as far as it relates to the biennial appointment of the Synod, be, and it is, for this time suspended, in order that a meeting may be appointed at an earlier period than the rule admits, for the purpose of meeting with delegates from the Scottish and Irish Synods, at as early a day as possible. The Synod appoints its next meeting in Philadelphia, on the first Wednesday of August, 1831.

5. A paper was presented to Synod by the Rev. Ebenezer Cooper, complaining of a mistake by the Presbytery to which he belongs in relation to his appointment to Synod, whereby he was exposed to unnecessary expenses. Referred to the Committee on Travelling Expenses.

6. The Committee on Foreign Correspondence reported. A letter was presented by them and read, addressed to the Reformed Presbyterian Synod of Scotland. This letter was approved and ordered to be sent to that Synod. The Chairman of the Committee withdrew the letter from the table promising to return it to the Clerk of Synod.

7. The Committee on the Theological Seminary presented the following report: — Your Committee have taken under their most serious consideration the several subjects committed to them, and present the following report in relation to the petition from the Northern Presbytery: —

(1). It is greatly desired that the Theological Seminary should be resuscitated. And your Committee would most earnestly recommend that means should be used by Synod to ascertain what support would be afforded to the maintenance of a Professor. We know the painful fact that the Seminary was for a time in operation, and languished and died for want of support. That it was again revived, and again gave up the ghost from the same cause. Let us prepare the materials for building before we commence the building itself. Your Committee, therefore, recommend that the subject be kept under serious consideration until the next meeting of Synod; and in the meantime that the several Presbyteries shall go on as they have done in the times past to take charge of the young

men under their inspection, and instruct them in conformity with the provisions and regulations of the Theological Seminary, as far as in their power. And in the mean time that the Rev. Dr. McLeod should be nominated as the Professor as soon as the Seminary should be in operation.

The second part of the petition respects the establishment of a periodical work which shall be a vehicle for communicating religious instruction, etc. Your Committee highly approve of the plan of the proposed publication, and would further inform this Synod that, a considerable time since, some of the members of your reverend body had this subject under consideration, and, in a communication with Rev. Dr. McLeod, received from him the grant to their earnest solicitations that if such a work were put in operation, and he called thereto by the Synod, he would undertake the editorial department of said periodical. Your Committee, therefore, suggest he following resolutions: —

- (1) Resolved, That such publication be forthwith decreed by this Court.
- (2) That Rev. Dr. McLeod be elected to the editorial department of said publication.
- (3) That the name or title of said publication be left to the choice of the editor.
- (4) That the publication shall be an octavo, similar to the most respectable monthly publications, and each settled minister in our church shall pledge himself for a number of copies.

The Synod accepted this report and adopted the resolutions recommended therein. And further, the Clerk of this Synod is directed to advertise every absent minister of our connection of this transaction, and desire them to send on their pledge respecting the number of copies for which they will become responsible. Also to write, in like manner, to Mr. Daniel McMillan, South Carolina; Rev. Alex. Clarke, Amherst, Nova Scotia ; and to any other person whom he may think fit. The licentiates are to take their endeavors to obtain subscribers in vacant congregations. The several ministers and other members present were called on to pledge themselves for what number of copies of the contemplated magazine they would be responsible. Rev. Dr. Willson engaged for 76, stating at the same time that he would

consider himself entitled to 25 per cent. discount. Rev. S. M. Willson engaged for 2 copies; Rev. J. N. McLeod for 25; Rev. Moses Roney 25; Rev. Dr. S. B. Wylie 200; Rev. S. W. Crawford 10; Rev. Dr. Black 100; Rev. John Cannon 25; Rev. Robert Gibson 25, if he have a congregation; Rev. James Blackwood 2; Rev. Robert Wallace 20; Rev. Gavin McMillan 25; Rev. Jonathan Gill 10; Rev. T. C. Guthrie 25; Rev. Wm. Sloane 10; Rev. John Kell 15; Rev. Samuel Wylie 20; Rev. Ebenezer Cooper 20; Rev. Hugh McMillan 25; Rev. C. B. McKee 10; Rev. George Scott 1; Nathaniel Kirkpatrick 4; John Z. Willson 2; in all 675.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock P.M.

The Moderator concluded by prayer.

Eodem die et loco. 4 o'clock, P.M.

The Synod met and was constituted by the Moderator. Same members ut supra.

1. Mr. Ebenezer Gill, a ruling elder from Thompson's Run congregation, appeared and took his seat.

2. The Committee on Supplies made the following report which was adopted. Your Committee respectfully report: —

That there are three ordained ministers without charge under the care of this Synod, viz: Revs. Robert Gibson, Samuel M. Willson and James Blackwood; and eleven licentiates, viz: Messrs. John Fisher, A.W. Black, George Scott, William Wilson, John McMaster, S. M. Gayley, J. H. Symmes, Robert McKee, David Scott, E. D. McMaster and David Steele. Of these, Mr. Fisher, with the call from South Carolina, has already been referred to the Northern Presbytery. And in respect to the rest your Committee would recommend that Rev. Robert Gibson and William Wilson be referred, at their own request, to the Northern Presbytery. That Revs. S. M. Willson and James Blackwood, and A. W. Black, John McMaster and David Steele to the Pittsburgh Presbytery. George Scott to the Philadelphia Presbytery. Rev. James Christie, and the rest to the respective Presbyteries in which they now are. The Committee have also had under their consideration the petition from Knoxville, Tenn., and in reference to it they would recommend that the prayer of the petitioners be granted, and that it would be transmitted to the Pittsburgh Presbytery with directions to carry it out by means of some of the ministers

or licentiates committed to their care.

3. The Committee on Presbyterian Reports made the following report, which was adopted: —

That having examined these reports they find them exhibiting the Church under your inspection as enjoying a prosperity which ought to call forth the gratitude of the friends of religion to the Head of the Church. They find that although the operations of the Theological Seminary have been for some time suspended, yet your several Presbyteries have not relaxed in their exertions to furnish the church with a learned and able ministry. Under this more private system of instruction many young men of talents and, we trust, of godliness have been raised up, and are now employed in encouraging and strengthening your vacancies. Your settled congregations are steadily and gradually augmenting their members. As their numbers increase they are brought more into view, and consequently more into contact with society. As man is naturally an imitative being, it is to be expected that in proportion as these points of contact multiply, temptations to abandon the truth and comply with the prevailing maxims of the times will likewise be increased. While we lament that in some instances these temptations have been too successful in their seductive influence, yet we have reason to rejoice that the great body of your people have been enabled, by the blessing of the Most High, to resist these allurements and to exemplify the influence of God's grace upon their conversation among men. Societies for prayer and Christian conference are springing up in different parts of our country. Reasoning from past experience we are looking forward to the time, and that not far distant, when these societies by attentive culture will become flourishing congregations. On the survey of your whole church your Committee believe there is every inducement for your people to persevere in their efforts in the cause of reformation, knowing that these efforts shall not be in vain in the Lord.

In concluding this part of our report, your Committee would only remark that it is our decided conviction that the only sure ground of success in that work in which we are engaged, is placed in a minute and conscientious ad-

herence to the doctrines of this Church as they are exhibited to the world in our standards. Your Committee would recommend to the favorable consideration of Synod so much of the report of the Pittsburgh Presbytery as refers to the establishment of a Home Missionary Society.

4. On motion, it was resolved that the consideration of a Home Missionary Society, recommended in the above report, be referred to the next meeting of Synod.

5. A special Committee, consisting of Drs. Willson and Wylie, was appointed to reply to the letter from the Associate Reformed Synod of New York.

Adjourned till tomorrow at 10 o'clock A.M.

The Moderator concluded by prayer.

Eodem loco. Aug. 11, 1830.

The Court met agreeably to adjournment. Same members ut antea.

1. The Minutes of the former sederunt were read and approved.

2. Some members of the Pittsburgh Presbytery, by and with the consent of that Presbytery, presented a petition praying to be organized into a separate Presbytery according to certain specified limits, viz: to be bounded on the West and South by the Western Presbytery; East by the Muskingum river to New Philadelphia, thence by the canal to Cleveland on Lake Erie, to be called the Ohio Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church. On motion, the prayer of the petitioners was granted.

3. Rev. Dr. Willson presented a paper containing a preamble and resolution, which, after amendment, was adopted, and is as follows: —

Whereas, Synod has resolved to resuscitate the Theological Seminary; and

Whereas, It is proper that we have an efficient system of finance for the support of the Professor; therefore,

Resolved, That a Fiscal Committee be appointed to report a scheme of finance at the next sessions in Philadelphia.

Drs. Willson and McMaster, and Rev. J. N. McLeod are

that Committee. On motion, Robert Orr was added to the Committee.

4. A paper was presented requesting this Synod to decide whether ruling elders are to be ordained by the laying on of hands or not.

5. John Jamison, ruling elder, obtained leave of absence for the remaining sessions of Synod.

6. Resolved, That the letters from the Rev. Alexander Clarke, of Nova Scotia, be referred to a special Committee to return them with an answer. That Committee to consist of Revs. James R. Willson, S. W. Crawford and S. B. Wylie.

7. Revs. S. W. Crawford and Moses Roney had leave of absence during the remaining sessions of Synod.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock P.M.

Eodem die et loco. 4 o'clock P.M.

Synod met pursuant to adjournment, and was called to order by the Moderator. Same members ut supra with the exceptions of John Jamison, and Revs. S. W. Crawford and Moses Roney, who had leave of absence.

1. Application for sermon had been made to the Court from Tioga, Luzerne Co., Pa. The Synod refer the whole concern to the Northern Presbytery as being most contiguous, desiring that Presbytery to give the people of Tioga all the supplies in their power.

2. Rev. John Cannon presented the following paper: —

Whereas, There is some difficulty in the mind of the mover relative to the Scriptural plan of ordaining ruling elders, and

Whereas, Synod has not yet settled the whole of its system of ecclesiastical order, therefore

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to report to Synod at its next meeting in Philadelphia, on the proper mode of ordaining the above named church officers. The Synod adopted this resolution, and appointed Revs. John Cannon and John Gibson as that Committee.

3. On motion, it was agreed that the mode of ordaining deacons should also be considered in the report of this Committee.

4. On motion, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, No answer to our last communication to the Associate Synod has been made, although two meetings of that

body have been held since that time, this Court has reason to infer that the Associate Synod has declined any farther consideration of the topics under discussion ; therefore,

Resolved, 1. That your Committee be discharged.

Resolved, 2. That this Court will be ready to receive any farther communications from that body whenever they may feel disposed to make them.

5. Resolved, That “Ecclesiastical Order,” based on Acts 15:22, “Then pleased it the apostles and elders,” etc., be the subject with which the next sessions of Synod shall be opened, and that the Rev. Dr. S. B. Wylie be the substitute of the Moderator, in case of his absence.

6. It was moved by Dr. Willson that a Committee be appointed with instructions to publish the Minutes of the present Synod as soon as possible. To this Synod agreed, and Revs. John Black and S. W. Crawford were appointed that Committee. Dr. Willson instructed the Committee to draw upon him for the necessary amount for publication as soon as the bills become due. This is also to extend to the report on Civil Relations if it should be printed. The number of copies for which this pledge is given is 250.

The Synod then adjourned till the first Wednesday in August, 1831, to meet in Philadelphia.

The Moderator concluded by prayer, and the singing of the 133d. Psalm.

(Signed).

Samuel Wylie, Moderator.

John Black, Synod Clerk.