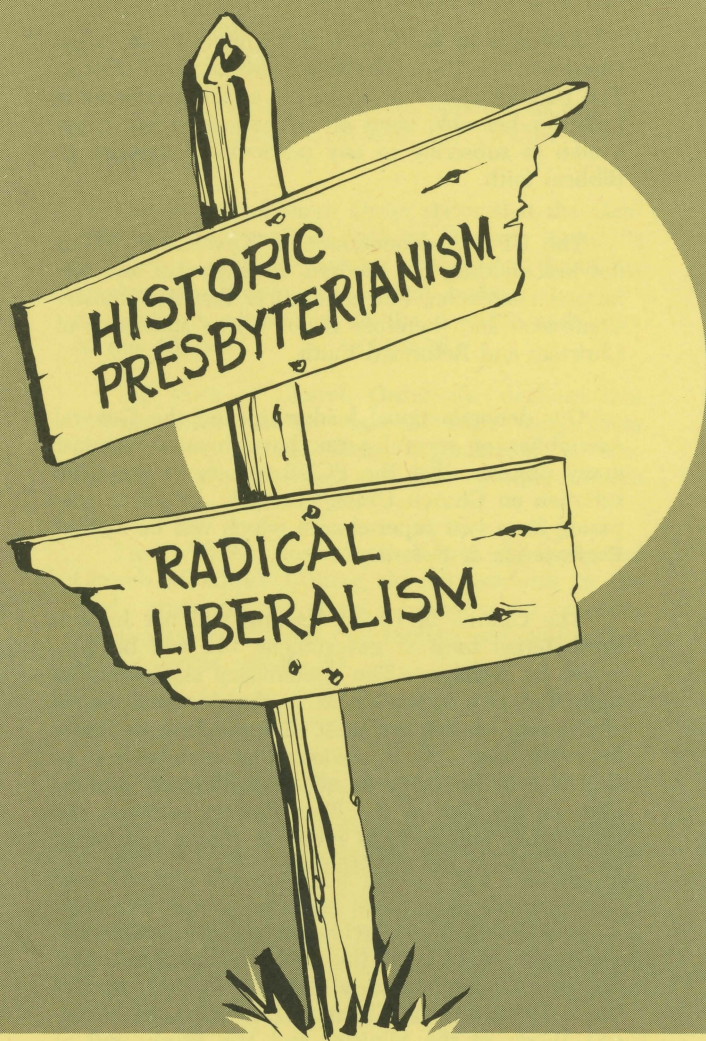


# PRESBYTERIANS



## WHICH WAY?

### ECUMENISM



## *The Way of Radical Liberalism*

The church has gone the way of radical, liberal ecumenism.

Attempts to unite with the United Presbyterian Church in the USA (Northern) are unconstitutional. The UPUSA church is no longer a truly confessional body for her new vows of ordination do not cause a man to subscribe to any particular confession of Biblical faith.

The UPUSA denomination's "Confession '67" is not just another, but modern, Presbyterian and Reformed confession, but contradicts the Westminster Confession and therefore is not a true statement of Christian and Reformed Faith.

Our denominational leadership and the General Assemblies of several years have insisted, against many protests, that the PCUS remain in the Consultation on Church Union (COCU), which is preparing for a vast super-church which will be neither Presbyterian or Reformed.

The Church of Christ Uniting will not have a Presbyterian form of government, but will be governed by bishops. The preliminary statements of faith that give indication as to the doctrinal stance of the new church are most disappointing to Bible-believing men. It is obvious that membership in COCU will be open to all, regardless of Biblical faith or the lack of it. This "lowest common denominator" approach to union is totally unbiblical and an affront to God Himself.

A situation of de facto union already exists between the PCUS and the UPUSA churches. Our Boards and committees of World Missions, of National Ministries, of Christian Education, of Women's Work, of the Minister and His Work, and of Annuities and Relief already are engaged in close cooperation and joint work with their counterparts in the UPUSA church. The list of cooperative projects and consultations covers almost a full page in the 1972 General Assembly Minutes (p. 273).

## *The Way of Historic Presbyterianism*

Efforts to bring together churches and/or denominations which are sincerely committed to the Presbyterian form of church government and to the Reformed Faith, are supported and encouraged by Bible-believing Presbyterians.

However, Presbyterians are opposed to any attempt to unite the PCUS with the UPUSA church or with COCU.

The Book of Church Order states that the General Assembly has the right to "receive under its jurisdiction, with the consent of three-fourths of the Presbyteries, other ecclesiastical bodies whose organization is conformed to the doctrine and order of this Church." (18:6-13)

The Book of Church Order also declares that the Assembly has the right to unite with "other ecclesiastical bodies whose organization is conformed to the doctrines and order of this Church . . . ." (18:6-17)

The UPUSA denomination and the proposed Church of Christ Uniting do not conform to the above standards for union. There is no constitutional way our church can become one with either of the bodies mentioned.

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(The Way of Liberalism, cont'd.)

The 112th General Assembly accepted a report of the Ad Interim Committee for the Consultation of Church Union which states, "We reaffirm our commitment to continue together in this venture of obedience." The report reveals that "the churches in the Consultation have already begun cooperative work . . . In scores of communities, our congregations have joined in witness and service."

The Assembly encouraged the Committee in its efforts to renew "our commitment to the broadest possible participation . . ." and agreed to "encourage and grant freedom to congregations to participate in the forming of model parishes." (Minutes, pp. 275-276)

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