



OFFICE OF THE STATED CLERK
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A List of Some of the Significant Actions of the Sixth General Assembly, Presbyterian Church in America

1. Adopted a strong position opposing abortion for any reason at any time as clearly a violation of the Sixth Commandment.
2. Set up a special committee to assist in ministries to the poor, ethnic minorities and urban population of America.
3. Declared Dispensationalism to be basically incompatible with the Covenant Theology and called for a study paper documenting the errors of modern Dispensationalism in the light of our own doctrinal Standards.
4. Called for a study of Theonomy so as to properly define it, and to make recommendations regarding its compatibility with our Standards.
5. Adopted a paper entitled, "The Biblical Basis for Church Unity". Basically, the paper comes to the conclusion that the Scripture does mandate the unity of all believers under one government. It recognizes the fact that there are obstacles to this. Specifically, it mentions the obstacle of ignorance, or disregard for the truth, and the obstacle of our native sinfulness. The basic principles for working out unity are set forth under the following criterion:
 - a. The wholehearted submission to the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the Word of God with the understanding that directives of the Word will be the over-riding criterion guiding all the actions of the body.
 - b. Unity in our Confessions.
 - c. Unity in our practices
 - d. Submission to the united brotherhood.

The final paragraphs of the paper read as follows: "The solution to denominations is not to forget the past and ignore the real doctrinal differences of Christians. The teachings of the Bible are important, so much so that the Christians are commanded to separate from those who espouse false doctrines or practice immorality (II John 9-11).

"Where there already exists basic doctrinal unity, as in the case of those who adhere to the system of doctrine taught in the Westminster Standards, the way is open to give organizational expression to that unity. Expressions of this should be done carefully and prayerfully, lest the peace of the Church be destroyed in the process."

6. Approved conversation about possible church union with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod.
7. Moved toward the adoption of a uniform theological curriculum for the training of ministers. It is envisioned that presbyteries themselves would eventually have a part in this theological training, and that it will not all be adopted by established seminaries.
8. Approved a paper on diaconal ministries, seeking to evaluate and study more carefully the diaconal ministries of the NAPARC Churches. In particular, the patterns of the diaconal ministries of the OPC and the CRC were noted.
9. Adopted an action to begin moving towards participating with the RPCES in the operation of Covenant College. The Assembly was granted the privilege of electing several members to the Board of the College.
10. The matter of the number of offices was again postponed for action at the next General Assembly. A study on the question of divorce and the meaning of the phrase "husband of one wife" as it applies to Elders was not acted upon by this Assembly, but postponed until the next Assembly.
11. Has purchased an Assembly Conference Center ground in Western North Carolina, and the development of this Center is beginning to be implemented.
12. Approved the establishment of a Chaplains Commission with the OPC and the RPCES to represent these Churches in the Armed Forces.