

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHMEN UNITED

Contact

Number 9

June, 1971



DR. D. JAMES KENNEDY

• DR. D. JAMES KENNEDY HAS BEEN NOMINATED FOR MODERATOR OF THE 1971 GENERAL ASSEMBLY by his Everglades Presbytery. His dedicated service to Christ in the past proves that he is a winner. We state here some of the reasons why many of the commissioners to the General Assembly will vote for him.

• JIM KENNEDY IS A YOUNG MAN. He can speak as a young man to young people. He has the energy and zeal of dedicated youth. He can provide the image to our church of the progressiveness and vitality of his youth.

• JIM KENNEDY IS A SUCCESSFUL LEADER. For a decade our U. S. church has been gradually going backwards. During these years Jim Kennedy has led his local church successfully forward. Our denomination desperately needs a leadership of proven accomplishment. Jim can give us this leadership.

• JIM KENNEDY IS A MOST EFFECTIVE PASTOR-EVANGELIST. He "majors" in "majors." Jim has been effectively doing the primary mission of the church in the great evangelistic program of his local church. He has not spent his time "majoring" in "minors," but has led his people in winning the lost to Christ.

• JIM KENNEDY BUILDS THE CHURCH. He started out with a handful of people in a small mission church. In 10 years his church has grown to 2450 members with as many as 2850 attending four morning Services. In the past 5 years he has received 900 by profession of faith and 847 by certificate, 159 adults and 258 infants were baptized. His is the fastest growing church in our denomination.

• JIM KENNEDY IS A SCHOLAR, having received both his B. D. and Th. M. degrees with honors. But he has done what many scholars are never able to do, for he has bound his scholarship to a highly practical and productive work. His work in evangelism is well set down in his book "Evangelism Explosion" recently published by Tyndale House Publishers. An excellent film, "Like A Mighty Army," has been made about the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church.

• JIM KENNEDY STANDS FOR BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY. His preaching and program are Biblically oriented, thus declaring the authority of Scripture, he is dedicated to the Reformed Faith. There is no equivocating or compromising on the great tenets of the Faith. He is one of the dynamic young evangelicals who are revitalizing the Presbyterian Church in the U. S.

• JIM KENNEDY SHARES WITH OTHERS his great accomplishments and success in evangelism. He has set up evangelism institutes at his church where hundreds of ministers and laymen from all over the country are trained in this effective evangelism method and given practical training in it. Hundreds of churches and pastors have been blessed through this program.

• JIM KENNEDY EXTENDS HIS MINISTRY TO OTHER DENOMINATIONS. He does not limit his cooperation and helpfulness to vague theories and resolutions about ecumenicity, but openly shares his knowledge and practices with other Christians. During the past few years participating in the Coral Ridge Evangelism clinics have been representatives from 45 denominations, 10 seminaries, 3 colleges, 4 publications, and 4 foreign countries.

• JIM KENNEDY IS AN EXCELLENT EXECUTIVE AND ADMINISTRATOR and can ably serve the Assembly in this capacity. It requires some executive ability to pastor any church and Jim administers a large church with an extensive program, large staff, plus 300 lay evangelists. Beyond this he has extended his writing and organizing to serve countless groups beyond his own congregation.

• JIM IS A PROGRESSIVE IN TIME OF NEED. While the denomination has staggered under the weight of ponderous boards and confused theology, Jim Kennedy has led his church steadily forward with confidence and

assurance that Christ is the way. Think of where our denomination would be today if all our church had kept apace of his.

● **JIM KENNEDY OFFERS A CHALLENGE** to the church at large. Our leader should be a man who offers us a challenge in the very fact that he is out in front for Christ. His church has been recognized as one of the fastest growing and leading churches in America.

● **JIM KENNEDY TEACHES HIS PEOPLE TO GIVE.** In the last 5 years the young Coral Ridge Church has given to the Lord more than 2 and one-half millions of dollars. His church carries one of the largest benevolence budgets in the Assembly especially for Missions. The present budget of his church is over \$835,000. His people are in the process of constructing a \$6,000,000 plant.

● **JIM KENNEDY CAN BE AN OBJECTIVE LEADER.** Our denomination needs a moderator without previous bias towards any of its boards or agencies. Jim is not aligned with any particular board, agency, or publication. He is qualified to see them all in the Light of the Authority of Scripture and Headship of Christ.

● **JIM KENNEDY'S WORK HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED BY MANY** outside our church; he should be recognized by his own church. The Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church was recently selected by "Decision" Magazine as one of the five "Great Churches of North America." In November of 1969 the Coral Ridge Sunday School was chosen by "Christian Life" Magazine as the outstanding Sunday School in America. Gospel Films, Inc., has recently completed the filming of a one hour, color, dramatic motion picture of the life and ministry of the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, entitled "Like a Mighty Army."

gregations from calling the man of their choosing. For many years the Presbyterian Church in America operated without such commissions, and this writer believes it would make for more Biblical order in the church to do without them. There is also a growing tendency on the part of boards and agencies of the church to act on their own, without specific direction from the church so to do. In such cases endorsement is asked for later. Again it seems to this writer that these boards should function as committees of the Assembly, and not as though they were self-sustaining or independent agencies.

Another implication that must be seen from these Biblical principles is that the idea of an entirely independent and separate congregation is not Biblical. This is clear from this 15th and 16th chapters of the book of Acts. Thus, for those who grow restive under their present church situation, the avenue of independence is not really a Biblical option for them. What is needed, is a Reformation within the church, calling our own church back to its Reformed and Presbyterian position. Lacking this, if a division comes, then what will be most necessary will be the maintenance of a true Biblical and Presbyterian polity, along with the true adherence to the Reformed Faith.

Footnote: For further reading in this area, the writer recommends Thomas Witherow, **The Apostolic Church, Which is it?**, and also the **Form of the Christian Temple**. Much of the thought of this article has been derived from the first of these two works.

—Morton H. Smith.

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF CHURCH GOVERNMENT

(NOTE: This is the conclusion of an article by Dr. Morton Smith, member of the College of Scholars of Presbyterian Churchmen United and Professor at Reformed Theological Seminary).

MODERN PRESBYTERIAN STRUCTURES

As we look at the modern Presbyterian structures, we see that the church has exercised the privilege of ordering her affairs in such matters as having moderators, clerks, etc. This would certainly be in accord with the proper and orderly exercise of the function of rule. There are areas in our Southern Presbyterian structure, however, which go beyond these principles. We wish that our church could be called back to a more Biblical position in these areas. The idea that true Presbyterianism involves the obedience to an Assembly, regardless of whether that Assembly's actions are true to the word or not, is not true Biblical. All too frequently one person who is seeking to be loyal to the Biblical idea of Presbyterianism is accused of being unPresbyterian when he does not follow the direction of an Assembly, which he does not believe to be true to the word. The true Presbyterian at this point is one who seeks to test all things by the Word and who lives in accord with the Word. All too frequently, in our circles, we see the use of the Commission on the Minister and His Work to prevent con-

RECENT SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT

We welcome the following ministers to the ever growing ranks of Presbyterian Churchmen United.

Charles R. Bailey	William K. Wymond
William H. Bell, Jr.	D. A. Dunkerley
John Richard de Witt	Basil P. Albert
Charles B. Evans, III	Robert G. Balnicky
Richard R. Harris	Bruce Beardsley
John D. Holmes	H. L. Broadwater, Jr.
Robert A. Johnson	Paul J. Coblentz
Edward J. Knox	Billy G. Combs
John Wade Long, Jr.	John W. Dozier
Wallace W. Marshall	G. A. Fleece
John S. McNicoll	Iain Inglis
John W. Stodghill	William W. Maynor
James E. Watson	A. C. Summers

SPRING RALLIES

Spring Rallies are being held by Presbyterian Churchmen United in many areas of the church. They bear witness to an ever increasing and encouraging fellowship of those within our Church who believe the Scriptures and the Presbyterian Standards. Often these Rallies are planned and programmed by local leaders within Synods and Presbyteries. Space does not permit the reviewing of all of these Rallies, but they are reported as being a real blessing and most informative to those who attended.

During the months of March, April, and May the Executive Secretary has helped plan and spoken at Rallies in the following places:

March 2—Albany, Georgia—First Presbyterian Church.

March 3—Tallahassee, Florida—Westminster Presbyterian Church.

March 4—Pensacola, Florida—McIlwain Memorial Presbyterian Church.

March 5—Panama City, Florida—St. Andrews Presbyterian Church.

March 6—Gainesville, Florida—Highlands Presbyterian Church.

March 7—Tampa, Florida—Bel-Mar Presbyterian Church.

March 8—Orlando, Florida—Community Center.

March 11—Roanoke, Virginia—Westminster Presbyterian Church.

April 25—Marion, North Carolina—First Presbyterian Church.

May 2—Charleston, West Virginia—South Ruffner Presbyterian Church.

May 30—Bristol, Tennessee—Rosemont Presbyterian Church.

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WHAT NOW?

It was no great surprise to learn that the General Assembly of the UPUSA (Northern) had postponed the consideration of the Proposed Plan of Union until 1973. It is no compliment to the committee of 24 that they had previously saturated the two denominations with the brown leaflet studying and promoting Union. Many pastors have foolishly, but naturally, begun to instruct their people on the basis of this premature publication.

This action by the UPUSA Assembly (which preceded ours by a month) will probably be followed by a similar proposal from the committee to the PCUS Assembly. What does this indicate?

First, it indicates a failure on the part of the proponents of Union to win the support of the Church at large for their cause. In both denominations there is strong opposition to organic union. The growing tide of opposition within the Southern Assembly has been, and is being expressed, by individual, sessional, and presbytery resolutions. Postponement and delay seems to be the only "out" presently upon the horizon.

Second, most sensible people will understand that the radical ecuminist has not given up the battle. He is dedi-

ANNUAL MEETING OF PCU

Asheville, N. C., August 11, 1971

**For All Ministers and Session Representatives
Who Have Subscribed to The Declaration
of Commitment**

Business Meeting, Buncombe County High School
3:00-5:00 P. M.

Banquet for Members and Wives

SHERATON MOTEL 6:30 P. M.

Banquet Tickets \$3.50

For Reservation and Banquet Tickets Write:

PCU, 263 CANDLER DR.

Macon, Ga. 31204

cated to his mission. Although he may have to retreat, delay, or postpone, his work will go on above ground and underground. No doubt his next attack will be oblique—that is to restructure the Church towards fewer judicatories, more removed from the grass-roots, staffed by people of his choice, more centralized for control. Where possible he will promote union judicatories (whether or not it is constitutional), union boards, and union committees.

Third, the conservative who stands under the Authority of Scripture and with the Confession of Faith must stay awake, alert, active, informed and steadfast. Much has been done in the last year to encourage the people of God who have an evangelical stance, but greater works than these must be done.

Fourth, the decadent efforts at organic union must be replaced by a new fresh approach to issues at hand. We need a new leadership in the General Assembly. The Board of Annuities and Relief is the only board of our church that has an outstanding record of achievement during the last decade. We need a Moderator who has proven himself in leading forward in the primary mission of the church and can lend vigor, direction, and progress to a church that has been floundering.

Fifth, the collapse or postponement of the present efforts towards Union leaves void a pressing issue that needs to be satisfied. Many in the PCUS want to be under the constitution of the UPCUSA; many in the UPCUSA would prefer to be under the PCUS constitution. Some way needs to be provided so the convictions and desires of both of these groups can be fulfilled.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHMEN UNITED
(Check One)

Category I — Supporter. (Open to lay officers and members of the Presbyterian Church US, as individuals.)

Category II — Full membership. (Open to ordained ministers.)

Category III — Full membership. (Open to sessions, as units. Signature below certifies action taken in regular meeting.)

"Wish to make the Declaration of Commitment my/our own, and to support the aims of Presbyterian Churchmen United."

Signed	Name printed or typed
Address	Name of church
Zip Code	Presbytery

CALL TO PRAYER

PCU was born of prayer and now we call you again to specific prayer for the 1971 meeting of the General Assembly. The meeting will be held at Massanetta Springs, Virginia, June 13-19. Pray that all commissioners will humble themselves before Christ and be guided by the Authority of the Holy Scriptures. Pray that our church shall move in direction of pure doctrine and peaceful fellowship.

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263 Candler Dr., Macon, Ga. 31204

P C U
PRAY FOR
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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