

## Presbyteries

### ASHEVILLE PRESBYTERY.

Asheville Presbytery met with the Slagle Memorial church, in Macon county, September 5, 1916, and was opened with a sermon by Rev. E. L. Siler, at the request of Mr. C. C. Lord, the retiring moderator.

**Organization:** Rev. R. C. Anderson was elected moderator, and Revs. R. J. Hunter and E. L. Siler temporary and engrossing clerks. There were present during the meeting 13 ministers and 11 ruling elders.

**Courtesy:** Rev. Charles Morris, D. D., of Arkansas Presbytery, was invited to sit as a corresponding member.

**State of Religion:** From the free conversation on this subject, the work as a whole seems to be in better condition throughout the Presbytery than at any previous time.

**Dedication of Church:** On Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock the Slagle Memorial church was dedicated to the glory of God with appropriate ceremonies, the sermon being preached by Rev. E. L. Siler, at the request of the congregation.

**Licentiate Received:** Licentiate H. G. Bedinger was received from East Hanover Presbytery, and examined with a view to ordination. He will be ordained later at the organization of the West Asheville church, which he is supplying, in connection with his work as assistant to Rev. R. P. Smith, our Presbyterial evangelist.

**Adjourned Meeting:** Presbytery adjourned to meet at the First church, Asheville, September 12th, at 3 o'clock P. M. At this time order will be taken for the organization of the West Asheville church, and a young man will be examined with a view of being received as a candidate for the ministry.

**Nominations:** To preach Presbyterial sermon next meeting, Rev. G. F. Mason, with Rev. A. M. McLaughlin, alternate; subject, "The Doctrine of the Atonement."

**Moderator Next Meeting:** Rev. Jno. R. Hay, with Mr. W. S. Black alternate.

Rev. R. P. Smith was nominated to succeed himself as trustee of Davidson College for a term of two years. Licentiate H. G. Bedinger was added to the Home Mission Committee. These nominations were adopted by Presbytery.

**Conference on Stewardship:** In answer to an overture from the Assembly's Committee, the Committee on Systematic Beneficence was instructed to arrange for a Conference on Christian Stewardship early in next year.

**Place of Next Regular Meeting:** Swannanoa church was chosen, the time being fixed by standing rule.

**Presbyterial Sermon:** This was preached by Rev. T. E. Simpson from 1 Cor. 2:2.

**Home Missions:** A popular meeting was held in the interest of this cause, and at its close a collection was taken for our Orphanages amounting to \$16.

**Laymen's Home Mission Convention:** Presbytery urged all our churches to send representatives to this Convention, which meets in Lexington, Ky., next February.

**Union Seminary:** Dr. Edward Mack, of the faculty, addressed Presbytery, bringing cheering news from this school of the prophets. Presbytery calls special attention to the day of prayer for schools and colleges, and urges all ministers and sessions to try to secure recruits for the gospel ministry.

**Foreign Missions:** Presbytery urges the co-operation of every church in the collection for this cause in October, that every pastor preach a sermon on Foreign Missions in October, and that the Sabbath-schools observe the last Sunday in October as Foreign Mission Day, with a liberal offering for the cause.

**Vote of Thanks:** After adopting a most hearty vote of thanks for the gracious hospitality of the entire community and the Franklin church, Presbytery adjourned with the usual devotional exercises.

E. L. Siler, Stated Clerk.

### BETHEL.

Bethel Presbytery held its regular fall session at Olivet church, McConellsville, S. C., beginning September 5th, at 11 o'clock, with a sermon by the retiring moderator, Rev. A. A. McLean, from Mark 4:26-29. There were twenty ministers and thirty ruling elders present.

**Elections:** Rev. T. W. De Vane, of Liberty Hill, was elected moderator; Rev. A. A. McLean, of Clover, assistant clerk. Rev. W. B. Arrowood, D. D., of Sharon, was elected stated clerk to fill out the unexpired term of Rev. John A. McMurray, who resigned.

**Receptions:** Rev. Caul B. Moore, of Louisville Presbytery, and Rev. J. C. Grier, of Concord Presbytery, were received into the Presbytery.

**Installations:** Presbyterial commissions reported the installation of Rev. R. K. Timmons, at Fort Mill, and Rev. R. M. Phillips at Great Falls, Cedar Shoals and Fort Lawn. The following constitute the commission to install Rev. J. C. Grier at Beth-Shiloh, Allison Creek and Tirzah (Y): Rev. A. A. McLean, Rev. R. K. Timmons and Rev. E. E. Gillespie, D. D., Elder W. W. Lewis; alternate, J. W. Thomson. The time and duties of the commission are to be arranged later. Revs. F. W. Gregg, T. B. Craig and Elder J. W. Thomson constitute the committee to install Rev. Paul H. Moore as pastor of Ebenezer, September 17th, at 11 A. M. Rev. A. Martin alternate for the minister, and J. C. Cork alternate for the elder.

**Conferences:** Conferences were held in the interests of Foreign Missions, Home Missions, Family Religion and Stewardship. Edifying sermons and addresses were delivered to the profit of all.

**Colleges:** Encouraging reports were received from our two colleges. Rev. D. M. Douglas, D. D., president of the Presbyterian College of South Carolina, addressed the Presbytery in the interest of the college. Rev. E. E. Gillespie, D. D., was elected to succeed himself as trustee of Chicora College for Women. Rev. W. M. McPheeters, D. D., was re-elected trustee of the Presbyterian College of South Carolina.

**Dissolutions:** The pastoral relation existing between Rev. John A. McMurray and Bethesda church was dissolved, and he was granted a year's leave of absence to pursue graduate work at Princeton Seminary.

**Appointments:** Rev. Alexander Martin, D. D., was appointed to preach the Presbyterial sermon at the spring meeting, with Rev. A. D. P. Gilmour, D. D., as alternate. Subject, "The Scriptural Authority and Duties of the Eldership." Rev. A. A. McLean was appointed to remain over to preach after the next meeting of Presbytery.

**Meetings:** There will be an adjourned meeting of Presbytery at the meeting of Synod at the call of the moderator. The next regular meeting will be held at the Great Falls church, April 17, 1917, at 8 o'clock.

John A. McMurray, S. C.

### ABINGDON.

Presbytery of Abingdon met in the Presbyterian church at Big Stone Gap, Va., September 7th, at 8 P. M. There were thirty-seven representatives present. The opening sermon was preached by Rev. J. A. Gray, after which the Presbytery was called to order by the retiring moderator, Rev. J. M. Smith.

**Organization:** Rev. J. E. Guthrie, moderator, and Rev. T. S. Smylie, clerk.

**Calls Received and Accepted:** The Presbyterian church at Welch, W. Va., called Rev. T. S. Smylie for all of his time. Mr. Smylie accepted the call and a commission was appointed to install him October 8th. Calls from Rock Spring and Bethel were placed in the hands of Rev. A. B. Montgomery and being accepted, commissions were appointed to install Mr. Montgomery October 8th. Mr. Montgomery was given permission to act as stated supply at Damascus.

**Reports of Committees:** The committee on Presbyterial boundaries, to whom was referred the request of the Synodical committee on the same matter, recommended that the following reply be made: "We do not think it expedient at this time to make any changes in the boundary lines of Abingdon Presbytery; nevertheless we are willing to consider such changes as may be proposed by the Synod's committee in the interest by the entire Synod. We feel that some other disposition should be made of the counties of Perry and Letcher in Kentucky if possible, as it is not an easy matter for this Presbytery to look after them on account of the great distance by rail."

The committee appointed to reply to the stated clerk of the Synod in regard to the Synodical Travelling Fund, reported that in view of the fact that assessments for the Presbytery and Synod have within the past year been doubled, it is not thought expedient for us to enter into this plan for the present.

**Commissioners to General Assembly:** Principals, Rev. R. D. Carson, Rev. F. E. Clark, Rev. J. M. Smith. Alternate, Rev. J. M. Sedgwick. Principals, Elders S. R. Crockett and William Leckie. Alternates, H. E. Hyatt and George W. St. Clair.

**Spring Meeting:** Welch, W. Va., May 1, 1917, at 8 P. M.

**Foreign Missions:** Rev. C. L. Crane addressed the Presbytery and the following recommendations were adopted:

1. That Presbytery direct all pastors to preach on Foreign Missions and take up an offering for this cause during the month of October.

2. That the Foreign Mission Committee be given the power of appointing certain ministers to preach in our vacant churches and take up collections during the month of October, and that these ministers report as to their diligence at the spring meeting of the Presbytery.

3. That the pastors and sessions be urged to organize men's mission study classes in their congregations to study McLean's "The Living Christ for Latin America."

4. That Presbytery urge all our Sunday-schools to adopt the last Sunday in October as Foreign Mission Day.

5. That all our pastors be urged to see to it that their treasurers send at once any money they may have on hand for this cause to Nashville.

Presbytery adjourned to meet in Wytheville, October 3rd, 3 P. M.

Carl S. Matthews, S. C.

### FORT WORTH.

Presbytery met September 12th in Palo Pinto, Texas, an inland town,

about thirteen miles from Mineral Wells, Texas.

**Attendance:** There were thirteen ministers and eight elders present.

**Officers:** Elder R. E. Sherrill was chosen moderator, and Rev. T. M. Cunningham, temporary clerk.

**Candidates:** Two young men were taken under the care of the Presbytery, Mr. Alfred Hart, of Weatherford church, and Mr. Hugh Bradshaw, of the Cisco church. The Presbytery now has eight candidates under its care.

**Church Dismissed:** The Strawn church was dismissed to the Presbytery of Abilene, U. S. A.

**Commissioners to the General Assembly:** Principals, Rev. M. C. Taylor, Rev. S. L. Rieves, Elder J. L. Cunningham, Elder J. I. Lawrence. Alternates, Rev. S. A. McElroy, D. D., Rev. A. F. Carr, D. D., Elder F. M. Knox, Elder R. F. Peden.

**Orphans' Home:** The Presbytery recommended September 16th as Orphans' Work Day.

**Installation:** Arrangements were made for the installation of Rev. G. B. Hall as pastor of the Anson church.

**Presbyterial Boundaries:** The Synod was overtured not to make any change in the boundaries of the Presbytery in Hill County unless it transferred the whole of Hill County into the Presbytery of Fort Worth.

**Sunday-school Institute:** The Presbytery approved a program for an institute to be held at such time and place as the chairman of the committee may select.

**Presbyterial Conference on Stewardship:** The Committee on Systematic Beneficence was authorized to call a conference on the subject of Stewardship in accordance with the overture of the Assembly's committee's recommendation on this subject.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held in Weatherford, Texas, April 18, 8 P. M., 1917.

**Hospitality:** The thoughtfulness and care of the principal ruling elder of the Palo Pinto church, Mr. J. L. Cunningham, and his excellent family in providing homes for all the bountiful hospitality of the citizens of this little city will be remembered always by all the members of the Presbytery.

J. D. Leslie, S. C.

### WEST HANOVER.

Presbytery of West Hanover held its fall meeting at Trinity church on September 12, 1916. Present, thirteen ministers and fourteen elders. At the request of Elder S. W. Somerville, the retiring moderator, the opening sermon was preached by Rev. J. C. Painter. Officers, Rev. A. Allan, moderator; A. G. Burnet and S. W. Somerville, clerks. The meeting, though small, was of unusual interest. The reports on the state of religion most encouraging. A larger number of evangelistic meetings being held and more accessions reported than for many years. The Home Mission report emphasized the Mountain Mission work, reporting most satisfactory progress in the erection of a chapel and a workers' home in the upper edge of Nelson County, for the completion of which \$400.00 additional will be necessary, and the members of Presbytery and congregation pledged and raised \$200.00 of this on the spot. The most notable and liberal contribution being \$25.00 in cash by a colored woman in the congregation. (If any reader of this wishes to make a contribution to a most worthy cause, for the uplift of a most needy people send your check to R. P. Valentine, Mountain Mission, Charlottesville, Va., and if any church is rebuilding or changing its pews and has seats to dispose of, please give them to this little church in the moun-