

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF WESTMINSTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Held October 22, 1935

The meeting was called to order at 11.05 O'clock at the Drake Hotel, Philadelphia, by the Vice President, Mr. F. M. Paist.

The opening prayer was made by the Rev. John H. McComb.

There were present Doctors Alison, Brumbaugh, Clark, Craig, Elder, Laird, Macartney, McComb, Phillips, Rian, Schall, Schofield; Messrs. Armes, Frutchey, Paist, Ross, Schrader, Steele; and Professors Allis, Machen and Van Til.

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Letters were read from Doctors Alexander, Dolfin, and Reeve; and Mr. Edwards.

On motion the minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

On motion the Committee appointed to draw up resolutions on the death of the Rev. Frank H. Stevenson, D.D., was continued to draw up said resolutions, the same to be embodied in the minutes of this meeting, and a copy sent to Mrs. Stevenson. (See Paper #1.)

Pres. of the Board

On motion the Committee appointed to draw up resolutions on the death of Mr. John A. Bell was continued to draw up said resolutions, the same to be embodied in the minutes of this meeting, and a copy sent to Mr. Bell's daughter. (See Paper #2.)

On motion the Treasurer's Report, presented by the Treasurer, Mr. Ross, was received. (See Paper #3.)

The report of the Faculty was read by the Chairman of the Faculty, Professor J. Gresham Machen. (See Paper #4.) The report announced the enrollment of eighty-five students, seven less than last year. It also announced the fact of the selection of Mr. R. Laird Harris, a graduate of the Class of 1935, as Assistant Registrar and Librarian. On motion this report was adopted.

At the request of Dr. Machen, Professor Van Til read a supplemental statement of the Faculty. (See Paper #5.)

Following the reading of the paper, Dr. Van Til spoke in behalf of the statement. Dr. Allis then spoke in opposition to it. Dr. Machen next spoke in favor of it. Prof. Woolley also spoke in favor of the statement and said that the members of the Faculty favoring the statement were Professors Machen, Van Til, Kuiper, Stonehouse, and Woolley; against the statement, Professor Allis; not voting, Professor MacRae.

Mr. Rian then offered the following motion: In reply to the Faculty's special communication, the Board declares that it is in sympathy with the aggressive stand of the Faculty in the present ecclesiastical crisis as agreeing with the purpose for which the Seminary was founded, and deprecates the serious division which has been introduced into the affairs of the Seminary by the present policy and attitude of "Christianity Today". The motion was seconded by Mr. Laird.

Mr. Laird then read a letter bearing upon this motion which was addressed to the Board of Trustees from the Rev. Warren R. Ward, of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia. (See Paper #6.)

Following a lengthy debate on the above motion, the Board recessed for luncheon at 1.15 P.M. The meeting reconvened at 2.30 P.M. and was opened with prayer by Mr. Steele.

Dr. Macartney then introduced the following resolution, not as a substitute motion, but having to do merely with the method of voting on Mr. Rian's motion:

RESOLVED: That in view of the grave importance of the motion now under discussion, and the absence from this stated meeting of eleven members of the Board, the question be put to a vote by ballots mailed to all members of the Board on Friday, October 29th, and that the President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall act as a Committee of Tellers, who shall announce the result of the vote to the members of the Board.

Should the vote show that a majority of the Board support the resolution by the Faculty, it is the sense of this meeting that those who have voted against the resolution should then withdraw from the Board. Likewise, that should the vote show that the majority of the Board oppose the resolution, that those constituting such majority withdraw from the Board, and leave the way clear for the continued witness of a Seminary which we believe was raised up of God as a witness to the Everlasting Gospel, and which has been so signally blessed by Him.

The Secretary of the Board is instructed to forward to all members of the Board a copy of the Faculty's resolution, the motion of Mr. Rian, and a copy of this resolution. Furthermore, that their Secretary in his communication call attention to that part of the resolution of the Faculty which declares the unalterable purpose of the majority of the Faculty to resign from the Seminary, should the Board of Trustees answer their resolution in the negative.

On motion following debate, the above resolution was adopted by a vote of eleven to three. On motion Dr. Craig was given the privilege of enclosing a personal statement in the communication of the Secretary to the members of the Board, if he so desire.

4 not voting

On motion the report of the Finance Committee was accepted.

The Field Secretary, Mr. Rian, gave a brief report in which he stated that in connection with the General Assembly there was held the largest Seminary banquet in the history of the institution. He also spoke of the Seminary broadcast on Sunday afternoons, and of the healthy financial situation of the institution.

On motion Mr. John Murray was elected to be Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology, in keeping with the recommendation of the Faculty submitted at the meeting of the Board on May 7, 1935.

The Secretary read a letter from the Rev. F. Paul McConkey, D.D., offering his resignation as a member of the Board. On motion the resignation was accepted.

On motion two members of the Faculty and one member of the Board of Trustees were appointed by the Vice President, Mr. Paist, as a Committee to arrange for the installation of Mr. John Murray. Members of this Committee as appointed are: Professors Machen and Stonehouse, and Dr. Clark.

On motion the meeting adjourned with prayer by Dr. Clark.

Respectfully submitted,
Harold A. Laird
Secretary