

"The Only Infallible Rule of Faith and Practice"

# THE CONCERNED PRESBYTERIAN

Dedicated to the Formation of a Continuing Church True to God's Word and Loyal to Historic Presbyterian Doctrine and Polity

Bulletin No. 22

SEPTEMBER, 1971

# Preparing to Move Together

with Honor as the Holy Spirit Leads

# **Getting Set for What's Coming**

BY W. J. WILLIAMSON

Mr. Williamson, an attorney of Greenville, Ala., is secretury of Concerned Presbyterians, Inc. and a newly appointed member of the Committee of 12 from the Presbyterian Church US (Southern) negotiating a plan of union with the United (UPUSA) Presbyterians. These are remarks delivered on Journal Day, August 11, preceding announcement of the decision to move towards a continuing Church.

WE have rounded the bend and are heading toward the continuation of a Presbyterian Church loyal to Scripture and the Reformed Faith. Praise be to almighty God!

I believe that the Holy Spirit has led us to consensus: to accept the apparent inevitability of division of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, a division caused by the program of the radical ecumenists, and to move now toward a continuing body of congregations and presbyteries loyal to Scripture and the Westminster Standards.

We see today the clear teaching of the Gospel being muted in favor of humanism, universalism and syncretism. We see a constant and progressive lowering of moral and spiritual values in some of the pronouncements of our Church. For many years faithful men and women have attempted to warn our people of this tragic situation developing within our Church. We have attempted to reverse the trends and although we have slowed them down, we have not stopped them.

#### Unbelievers

There are many men teaching in our seminaries and Church-related colleges who do not believe or teach the faith of our fathers. There are many men and women in our pulpits who do not believe or accept the basic tenets of our faith. There are many men and women in the official employ of our Church who are not faithful to our standards. We have lost both the ability and the will to discipline those practicing and promoting such heresies.

One of the three main elements of the real Church is the right administration of Church discipline. However, we have so neglected this element that our beloved Church is both *de facto* and *de jure* apostate. It is simply a false statement to assert that the Church, under the umbrella principle of "unity in diversity," should be allowed to remain a conglomeration of believers and unbelievers.

According to Matthew, when the disciples asked our Lord to explain the parable of the wheat and the tares, Jesus said, "the field is the world." It is not in keeping continued on page 2

# What You Can Do

IN his masterful talk Mr. Williamson emphasized the fact that in the near future every congregation will be called upon soon to decide whether they will unite with the United Presbyterian Church USA or join hands and hearts with the hundreds of loyal Presbyterians who will be forming a continuing Church faithful to God's Word and loyal to historic Presbyterian doctrine and polity.

He stressed the fact that many church members have not been told by their liberal pastors that they are planning to liquidate our Church by merger with the UPUSA and the super-church being planned by the Consultation on Church Union. These good people must be informed regarding the issues if they are to decide intelligently where they will stand. This is where you can help.

We have ordered an extra supply of this issue of The Concerned Presbyterian. If you belong to a church where many members are not informed it will help us tremendously if you will place a copy in the hands of every member of your local church. Just send a card to Concerned Presbyterians, Inc., 100 No. Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, Fla. 33132, letting us know how many copies you can use. They will be sent to you promptly — free of charge. We are counting on you to render this invaluable service.

# Getting Set . . .

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with Scripture to think of the Church as our mission field.

Jesus sends His disciples under a great commission to go into all the world and evangelize, but in our Church today we are in a position where most of our time, energy and money are being spent to evangelize the Church! We are so introverted with our conflicts within the Church that we are sadly neglecting the real battleground where aching hearts and blighted souls are being lost on sin's destructive shoals.

The trumpet is making an uncertain sound. This is a condition that we must not, we will not permit to continue.

#### Root of the Matter

The basic issue is the authority and integrity of the Bible. The questioning of this authority and the erosion of this integrity have been principally responsible for causing our apostasy. Certainly it is not necessary for me to document for you that long list of official and unofficial acts, pronouncements and programs of our Church which clearly prove its disdain for both the authority and integrity of the Word of God.

If the trumpet is to make a certain sound, a reaffirmation of this authority and integrity of Scripture in a new Church structure is necessary.

How will almighty God take care of the situation? No man knows. We know that God is sovereign, that His Gospel has not changed, nor has the power of the Holy Spirit been withdrawn, but the "how" and "when" are locked in the secret counsels of His own will. We know that God can bring a great revival that can convict and change those in positions of leadership in our Church. We should pray fervently and constantly for such a revival. In our human judgment, however, we see no signs of any such revival.

We know that God can give us victory in the courts of our Church. We should pray and work fervently and constantly for such a victory, but we see no signs of any real trend toward unseating those who have so firmly grasped the ecclesiastical reins of our Church.

#### Lesson of History

We see in history that when God's chosen race became so apostate as to reject His Word inscripturate and His Word incarnate, He raised up a new Israel instead of reviving the old. In the new Church of the Middle Ages, God did not give the reformers victory in the existing apostatee structure, but led them to reaffirm their loyalty to the final authority and integrity of His Word in a new structure.

We see a generation of faithful men and women being gradually called to their heavenly home; and we see them being replaced each year from our seminaries with a vast majority of young men and women thoroughly

# OFFICERS of Concerned Presbyterians, Inc.

Kenneth S. Keyes, President

Col. Roy LeCraw Vice President P. Y. Matthews Vice President W. J. Williamson Secretary J. M. Vroon Treasurer indoctrinated in the apostasy and heresy of their teachers. In our human judgment, this condition in our beloved Church cannot get better but will progressively deteriorate.

This is why I believe the Holy Spirit has led us to a consensus to accept the apparent inevitability of division in our Church and to move now toward a continuing body of congregations and presbyteries loyal to Scripture and the Reformed Faith. I firmly believe we are in the position described so clearly by Charles H. Spurgeon about 80 years ago. Listen carefully to the exhortation of that great man of God. Spurgeon said:

## Turning Point

"We admire a man who was firm in the faith, say 400 years ago . . . but such a man today is a nuisance, and must be put down. Call him a narrow-minded bigot, or give him a worse name if you can think of one. Yet imagine that in those ages past, Luther, Zwingle, Calvin, and their compeers had said, 'The world is out of order; but if we try to set it right we shall only make a great row, and get ourselves into disgrace. Let us go to our chambers, put on our night caps, and sleep over the bad times, and perhaps when we wake up things will have grown better.'

"Such conduct on their part would have entailed upon us a heritage of error. Age after age would have gone down into the infernal deeps, and the pestiferous

bogs of error would have swallowed all.

"It is today as it was in the Reformers' days. Decision is needed. Here is the day for the man, where is the man for the day? We who have had the Gospel passed to us by martyr hands dare not trifle with it, nor sit by and hear it denied by traitors, who pretend to love it, but inwardly abhor every line of it . . .

"Look you, sirs, there are ages yet to come. If the Lord does not speedily appear, there will come another generation, and another, and all these generations will be tainted and injured if we are not faithful to God and to His truth today. We have come to a turning point in the road. If we turn to the right, mayhap our children and our children's children will go that way; but if we turn to the left, generations yet unborn will curse our names for having been unfaithful to God and to His Word."

Yes, my dear friends, I am convinced we have come to that "turning point in the road." God has turned our spiritual eyes in a new direction, toward a new goal. I do not believe that the time or the method for reaching that goal has yet been clearly and certainly revealed. But whereas in years past we have been confused as we looked in many directions, now God is showing us that we should take positive action and move now in the direction of a continuing Church loyal to Scripture and the Reformed Faith. In this movement that which is first and foremost required of us is that we exercise and exhibit true Christian statesmanship. Such statesmanship circumscribes our movement with certain principles for this hour:

### Christian Statesmen

We must move only as God's Holy Spirit moves us. We must remember God's rule that it is "not by might, nor by power but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." If this movement be truly of God, it must be led by men and women filled with His Holy Spirit. It must be undergirded with much prayer.

Christian statesmanship requires that we curb our human impatience and impetuosity. We must not take precipitous and premature action. We all are sick and tired of these trends in our Church, and we want some immediate relief, but we must not run ahead of God lest we fail. As Gamaliel so aptly put it, "If this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought; but if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it."

Just as God has so clearly turned our eyes from wandering to and fro over a multitude of solutions to a consensus of a new direction, so surely He shall show us ever so clearly the time and the way, if we wait patiently on Him. We move only as His Holy Spirit leads. This is God's revealed way.

Moving Together

We must move together. Although we are saved as individuals, we are called into a corporate fellowship, the Church of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. One of the great problems for men and women of courage and conviction is their fierce individualism. Such men and women have a tendency to hear no voice but their own. This tends to create an independence which is detrimental to our corporate fellowship.

This attitude can lead individuals and congregations toward a feeling of self-sufficiency and isolationism as an insulation against the troubles of the times. Following such a course may give temporary relief to a few, but it is to neglect the warrant of Scripture as to our corporate responsibility. A necessary and desirable diversity in unity binds us in the true Church. Otherwise, we are subjected to the two real dangers of narrow sectarianism and further division over minor issues.

This tendency to adamant individualism could lead us in a movement that overlooks our corporate responsibility to those thousands of sheep who are even now in the clutches of the wolves and know it not, or knowing, cannot help themselves. They must have our help if they are to be rescued. Christian statesmen must consider their corporate responsibility to the fellowship, for this is the mandate of Scripture.

Dr. Morton Smith, member of the College of Scholars of Presbyterian Churchmen United and professor at Reformed Theological Seminary, in a recent article stated this principle in the following manner:

"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 the 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."

### The Very First Church

We have the pattern of the first century Church in the Apostolic Age: When problems arose, they met together in council in Jerusalem to hear each other, reach a consensus and move together. In the days ahead we must be keenly aware that Satan would divide us by using our own pride in our individual opinions. We must be humble even as Christ our king was humble. We must be willing to subordinate our judgments to those of the corporate fellowship, unless to do so would violate our conscience. This will mean that we will not move exactly as any individual desires but we will be exercising Christian statesmanship in our corporate responsibility as we move together.

#### Bound in Honor

We must move with honor. The head of the Church is Jesus Christ, the King, and He is worthy of all honor. We are His ambassadors. As Christian statesmen, we must do nothing that would bring dishonor to His name. The end does not justify the means for us. We are men under vows. We have sworn allegiance to a constitution. We are bound in honor thereby. No unconstitutional movement can be justified unless and until all constitutional doors have been closed and the situation would

# 1972 Church Budgets

THE Plan of Union with the United Presbyterian Church now before our churches for study contains a provision under which congregations can "refrain from uniting." This so-called "escape clause" in the plan to be presented in 1973 will allow conservative churches which are opposed to union with the UPUSA to retain ownership and control of their local church property.

In predominantly conservative presbyteries and synods these churches may be able to retain control of some of their camps, conference grounds, schools, orphanages and retirement homes but in liberally controlled presbyteries conservative churches will probably have to abandon all interest in the synod and presbytery properties which they helped to build.

It would be well for church officers to keep this in mind as they prepare their church budgets for the coming year. The continuing Church will need substantial starting capital and will eventually be faced with the problem of replacing synod and presbytery properties which will be taken over by the liberals in their new denomination.

Budget officers might well want to consider allocating a certain percentage of their 1972 undesignated benevolence funds, holding this money in a special fund until it is needed to undergird the continuing Presbyterian Church which will be forming.

We would also urge budget officers to keep in mind that Concerned Presbyterians, Inc. and Presbyterian Churchmen United will be bearing most of the preliminary costs of laying the foundation for the continuing Church. Prayerful consideration should be given to including these two organizations in all conservative church budgets for 1972.

bind the conscience to sin.

These doors are not yet closed. Instead, before us now for study, is the draft of a plan of union with the UPUSA. In it is a provision for congregations and ministers to elect not to enter — the so-called "escape clause." This is a constitutional door which can be used with honor. I am fully aware of all the reservations and conjectures about the possibility of this door being closed because of the opposition to it in both Churches, but I would remind you that a door was contained in the 1954 Plan of Union with the UPUSA, and in the Plan of Union with the RCA.

Both Dr. J. Randolph Taylor and Robert Lamar, the co-chairmen of the committee for drafting the plan, have publicly and privately committed themselves to the preservation of an equitable escape clause. I believe that men of good will shall prevail in recognizing that when Christians have irreconcilable differences, it is much better to depart in peace in a spirit of fairness than to attempt to force a position which violates the conscience of others.

I am aware of the tactic of unreasonable delay. Those in control have said that a plan would be presented to the 1973 General Assemblies. I will accept the good faith of those who have so promised until they have proven otherwise. But all these considerations are

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mere speculations on the future. Only God can control that door. Until He closes it or permits it to be closed through unreasonable delays, I believe Christian statesmanship requires us to wait, for when we move, we must move with honor.

Pray, Hope, Prepare

We must prepare for the move. We would still hope and pray that God would bring a great revival or give us victory in this present structure; but Christian statesmanship requires us to prepare for the alternative of a new structure. We must remember that whereas the issue has long ago been clearly delineated for most of us, it has not been so clearly defined for many of our brethren who have been lulled to complacency and indifference by the modernists. We must prepare them.

We must undertake a massive campaign to inform each local congregation and minister in our Church. The ultimate decision must be made at the congregational level. Multitudes of congregations are still in the darkness. We must see that the light is shed abroad in our Church in order that the faithful will be able to make an informed and intelligent decision.

In the next two to three years, each congregation in our Church is going to have to make a decision as to its future. We must prepare them for this day of decision. The issue must be clear. The issue must be simple. Many are now confused by the complexity of the conflicting issues. UPUSA union presents a clear and simple issue that all can understand. So does a confessional change. Restructuring does not present such an issue. The people are not prepared to move because of restructuring.

Those in positions of leadership are preparing the form of a new structure. May I suggest that it is time for local sessions and congregations to grapple seriously with this question. A simple resolution such as this might be adopted by your session or congregation:

"Be it resolved that this session (congregation) hereby approves in principle the continuation of a Presbyterian Church loyal to Scripture and to the Reformed Faith, and hereby resolves, should such a Church come into being in God's providence, to be a part of it."

These are days for preparation; and we must be preparing for the move.

Hence, I have suggested that true Christian statesmanship for these days immediately ahead dictates that: We move only as God's Holy Spirit moves us. We move together. We move with honor. We move after due preparation.

May God grant us wisdom and give us courage for the making of these days. May we remember this faithful saying of the Apostle Paul: "My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus . . . Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end."

# C.O.C.U. Plan Foretells

THE Plan for C.O.C.U.'s "Church of Christ Uniting"—envisioned as the goal for mergers—should be read by every Presbyterian. For here is the format under which nine denominations, including the Presbyterian

Church U.S., the UPUSA and others, are proposing to unite. Send 25¢ in coin today to Concerned Presbyterians, Inc., 100 No. Biscayne Blvd., Miami, Fla. 33132, for your copy, and after reading it, you probably will want to suggest that each member of your session and other leaders in your church receive copies.

# Building an Ark

Message by
KENNETH S. KEYES,
President
Concerned Presbyterians, Inc.
Journal Day, August, 1971

SEVEN years ago last May a group of faithful ministers and lay leaders met in Atlanta to discuss the serious erosion of Presbyterian doctrine and polity that was taking place in the Presbyterian Church in the United States. This erosion was being caused by the activities of a relatively small group of liberal ministers who sought to divert our Church from its primary mission — to blunt our evangelical testimony by involvement in social, economic and political matters. After many years of secret plotting and planning this group had succeeded in getting control of our General Assembly and many of the lower courts of our Church. Their men were solidly entrenched in most of our boards and agencies and they occupied most of the positions on the Church's strategic commissions and committees.

The conservative leaders who met in Atlanta decided that the time had come to launch an organized effort to try to counter the subversive activities of those in control and to work to return the leadership of our Church to men and women who believe that the Bible is God's revealed Word and that the Church's primary mission is to lead the unsaved to Christ and to nurture believers in the Faith.

Seven years ago this month the Board of Directors of the *Presbyterian Journal* approved the recommendation of the leaders who met in May and authorized the appropriation of \$15,000. of *Journal* funds to get the organization under way. On the following day you supporters of the *Journal* gave your blessing to the new movement. Concerned Presbyterians was born.

There were some who felt that ours should be a secret, undercover organization patterned after the organization which had enabled the liberals to gain control. We decided, however, that we wanted no part in a secret organization — that ours should be an open-and-above-board movement which would clearly state its purposes. We thought it would probably take ten years to reverse the trends in our Church — 5 or 6 years to get the control of the General Assembly in conservative hands and the remaining years to change the membership of our boards and agencies, commissions and important committees.

Concerned Presbyterians, Inc. was formally organized in December, 1964. We limited our membership to laymen because we knew that ministers would be persecuted in many presbyteries if they openly aligned themselves with our movement. In spite of this limitation, more than 300 ministers wrote to encourage us and asked to be placed on our mailing list.

### P.C.U. Organized

In 1969 more than 500 faithful ministers and missionaries formed their own organization — Presbyterian Churchmen United. Their Declaration of Commitment

appeared in a 34-page advertisement in more than 30 of the South's most important newspapers. Today the membership of PCU is approaching 700. Their objectives are identical with ours and we are cooperating closely with them.

About the same time that Presbyterian Churchmen United was formed, a third group representing the socalled "moderates" or "middle-of-the-roaders" was organized — the Covenant Fellowship of Presbyterians. They also are opposed to the steady erosion of Presbyterian Faith and polity which has been taking place. Their ultimate goals differ in some respects from ours but in certain areas where their objectives coincided with those of Concerned Presbyterians and Presbyterian Churchmen United we have worked with them.

During the last year these three organizations mounted an all-out effort to have the presbyteries elect conservatives to represent them at the 1971 Assembly. As a result approximately one-third of the 450 commissioners at Massanetta Springs held conservative views — far more than we have had at any previous Assembly in the last 15 years. We made a real effort to inform these people regarding the crucial issues before they arrived at the Assembly. Additional briefing sessions were held at the Assembly. On the whole these men did an excellent job of presenting the conservative point of view in the floor debates. But we were outnumbered and outvoted on practically all of the vital issues.

The actions of the 1971 General Assembly have been widely publicized in the church and secular press. To report them here would serve no useful purpose. An overwhelming majority of our leaders now feel that the liberals are so strongly entrenched in the boards and agencies and the strategic committees and commissions that it will not be possible in the foreseeable future to return this leadership to conservative hands. It is therefore our opinion that to continue the struggle to return the Presbyterian Church U.S. to its primary mission would be a needless waste of time, energy and the Lord's money.

Intolerable Situation

We have reached the point where the situation in our beloved Church has become intolerable to thousands of loyal Presbyterians who love the Lord, and want to serve Him in a Presbyterian Church which will be true to His Word. We feel that we can no longer be a part of a denomination in which the Board of Christian Education publishes literature which violates our Confession of Faith and encourages our young people to experiment with sex and drugs; in a denomination in which the Board of World Missions no longer places its primary emphasis on carrying out the Great Commission; in a denomination with seminaries which train ministers who substitute social and political action for the preaching of the Word: in a denomination where presbyteries violate our Constitution by receiving ministers who refuse to affirm the Virgin Birth, the bodily resurrection and other cardinal doctrines, while denying membership to faithful ministers who stand firmly for these doctrines which they vowed to uphold.

Especially do we feel that we can no longer subject our children and grandchildren to the kind of youth leaders that those in control have seen fit to place in these sensitive positions - young radicals who seem determined to lead our young people away from their faith in God.

A few weeks ago the youth minister of North Avenue Presbyterian Church in Atlanta — long a bulwark of the Faith — held a sex session for teenagers at which a

## The Steering Committee

Representing Concerned Presbyterians,

W. J. (Jack) Williamson, Greenville,

Judge Leon Hendrick, Jackson, Miss. Kenneth S. Keyes, Miami, Fla. Representing Presbyterian Churchmen

United:

The Rev. Donald B. Patterson, Jackson, Miss. Dr. G. Aiken Taylor, Asheville, N.C. The Rev. Kennedy Smartt, Hopewell,

Representing The Presbyterian Journal: Dr. John E. Richards, Macon, Ga. Robt. M. Metcalf, Memphis, Tenn. Mr. Stephen A. White, Mebane, N.C. Representing Presbyterian Evangelistic

Fellowship:

The Rev. William E. Hill, Jr., Hopewell, Va.

The Rev. James McKenzie Baird,

Gadsden, Ala.

The Rev. Ben Wilkinson, Decatur, Ga.

topless dancer from one of Atlanta's nightclubs was one of the principal speakers.

On Sunday night at our recent General Assembly some of the liberals sponsored a liquor party for youth delegates which lasted until 2 A.M. Monday morning. One of our past-moderators attended this outrageous affair at which youth delegates and ministers were observed in various stages of inebriation. Some of them were just plain drunk. Similar liquor parties were held

on other nights during the Assembly.

The liberal leaders who are firmly in control today are determined to liquidate our Church through union with a denomination which condoned the giving of \$10,000. for the defense of Angela Davis, a known Communist now being tried for her alleged part in the kidnapping and murder of a California judge — a denomination which used \$25,000, of church funds to defend the Black Panthers, a group which is openly plotting to destroy our country. We will not be a part of the United Presbyterian Church and the C.O.C.U. "Church of Christ Uniting."

Hebrews XI-7 says, "By faith, Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house." We are convinced, my friends, that the time has now come to prepare an "ark" for the preservation of the evangelical testimony which was once the thrust of the Presbyterian Church U.S.. Jack Williamson has told you that we realize now that division is inevitable and that we are taking definite steps looking toward the formation of a continuing Presbyterian Church loyal to Scripture and the Reformed Faith.

Our liberal brethren are prophesying that this continuing Church will only be a small "splinter" group. I think they are badly mistaken in this assumption. I firmly believe that the group which will continue the witness of historic Presbyterianism will be a sizeable group that will include many large and influential churches. I say this for several reasons:

1. I believe we have far more "going" for us than any group that has ever found it necessary to withdraw

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from its denomination. In the Presbyterian Journal we have an established magazine which reaches more than 40,000 Presbyterians every week. In Reformed Theological Seminary at Jackson, Mississippi, we have a seminary which is graduating an increasing number of faithful and well-trained ministers every year. In Concerned Presbyterians, Inc. we have an Assembly-wide organization of church officers and members who understand what is at stake and who are longing to work and worship in a Church which will be true to God's Word. In Presbyterian Churchmen United we have a large and wellorganized group of faithful ministers and missionaries who have taken a definite stand in keeping with their ordination vows. And in the Presbyterian Evangelistic Fellowship we have an evangelistic organization with a sturdy core of fulltime evangelists who are already faithfully serving the Church. To the best of my knowledge no group which has found it necessary to withdraw from any denomination has ever had five organizations like these already in existence to undergird the new Church which they were forming.

2. For more than 25 years the *Presbyterian Journal* has been warning Southern Presbyterians about the increasing erosion in our Church. For 7 years our Bulletin — THE CONCERNED PRESBYTERIAN — has been pinpointing the critical issues which divide us from the men in control. It is my humble opinion that never before in church history has the rank-and-file membership of any denomination been as well informed regarding the issues at stake as our people are today.

## Kept "in the Dark"

In contemplating the division which we deplore but which is now inevitable we must realize that there are still Presbyterians in churches pastored by liberal ministers who have been kept completely in the dark about the crisis we face. It will take a great deal of personal work to contact these people and provide them with

the facts which will enable them to decide intelligently where they will stand.

During the last 2 years Concerned Presbyterians, Inc. has operated on an annual budget of \$120,000. a year. It has been wonderful the way you good people and thousands of others have provided the necessary funds. We must now launch an even more determined effort to get our program across to the congregations in every one of our 4,063 churches. We will need to add more field directors to our present staff and to increase the frequency of our Bulletins. We anticipate that at least \$150,000. will be required to carry out the program which will be needed during the next very crucial year.

In conclusion I want to pay a tribute to the thousands of men and women who have undergirded Concerned Presbyterians, Inc. with their prayers and their financial support during the last 7 years. A special note of thanks is due to the dedicated men and women who have given of their time and energy to advance our movement — our Synod Trustees, Presbytery and Area Chairmen and Key Men, our officers and the members of our Executive and Strategy Committees, our Field Directors, our Executive Secretary Mrs. Kate Constance and Mrs. Jo Burlock who has been associated in my secretarial department for many years and five other dedicated women in our Miami and Atlanta offices. They have helped tremendously to prepare the ground work and to lay the foundation for our new Church. We owe all of them a great debt of gratitude and the assurance that their efforts have not been in vain.

At this point I am introducing the Rev. Donald B. Patterson, pastor of the 1,701-member First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, Mississippi, and President of Presbyterian Churchmen United. Mr. Patterson will introduce the members of the Steering Committee (see list) named by the four conservative organizations and he will read the statement approved by that Steering Committee last evening.

Finally may I urge every one of you to be much in prayer for the leaders to whom has been committed the awesome responsibility of paving the way for and bringing this new Church into existence. May I urge all of

#### STATEMENT BY THE REV. DONALD B. PATTERSON

It is my privilege to announce to you that the men on the platform with me now have been officially named as representatives from their respective boards to a steering committee. They represent the Presbyterian Evangelistic Fellowship, the Presbyterian Journal, the Presbyterian Churchmen United and the Concerned Presbyterians. Here is visible proof of the unity of conservatives working toward a common goal.

These groups have reached a consensus to accept the apparent inevitability of division in the Presbyterian Church U.S. caused by the program of the radical ecumenists, and to MOVE NOW toward a continuing body of congregations and presbyteries loyal to the Scriptures and the Westminster Standards.

This steering committee has been charged with the responsibility of developing and implementing a plan for continuation of a Presbyterian Church loyal to the Scriptures and the Reformed Faith, recognizing that the Sovereign Holy Spirit may be pleased so to revive our Church as to make revisions in the plan necessary. This committee held its organizational meeting last night. I was elected its chairman; Jim Baird, its vice-chairman; and Kennedy Smartt, its secretary.

This plan anticipates the involvement of every single congregation in our Church that is interested in preserving the historic witness of our faith. You will be given the opportunity to participate soon.

We sincerely believe that the Holy Spirit is leading us in this direction. We know that any result which is pleasing to Almighty God shall not be accomplished by our might, nor by our power but by His Spirit. Therefore, we urge and implore you to undergird this effort daily with much fervent prayer that God will fill us with His Holy Spirit to guide us in this tremendous undertaking.

This is truly a historic day for all of us. We resolutely set our faces in a new direction. We shall, with God's help, preserve for future generations the witness of our historic faith, that faith once delivered to the saints, to the glory of our King and Head, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

you to start working diligently within your own church and with friends and neighbors in nearby churches to see that they know and understand the critical issues which cause us to separate from our liberal brethren. And may I urge you to support with your prayers and your money the organizations through whose efforts we will soon have a continuing denomination which will be true to God's Word, faithful to our Westminster standards and loyal to Presbyterian polity—a Church in which we will all be happy to worship and serve.

# Field Directors

P. Y. Matthews, Vice President of Concerned Presbyterians, Inc. and a ruling elder of North Avenue Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, Ga., assumed the responsibility for our field work earlier this year. Under his able direction we have enlisted more Area Chairmen and Key Men during the last three months than over a similar period since Concerned Presbyterians, Inc. was first organized.

So far this year we have added two new Field Directors:

Jasper H. Wilson, a ruling elder, Thomasboro Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, N. C., joined our field staff during May. A retired sales executive in the Frigidaire Division of General Motors, Jasper brings to his new task a wealth of business experience and wide personal contacts in the Carolinas where he will devote most of his time. For five years he drove 100 miles every Sunday to preach at two small mission churches which were without pastors.

During August, Arthur H. Corbeil of Hialeah,

Florida, became our Field Director for the Synod of Florida. Art is a ruling elder and superintendent of the Bible School of the First Presbyterian Church of Hialeah. He has been active in Everglades Presbytery and in the Synod.

Our other Field Directors are:

Joseph B. Nalls, ruling elder, Talucah Presbyterian Church, Valhermosa Springs, Alabama; Willis H. Owens, ruling elder, Buffalo Presbyterian Church, Sanford, North Carolina; and W. C. (Andy) Anderson, ruling elder, Woodland Presbyterian Church, Nashville, Tennessee.

We need the help of eight more dedicated laymen to serve as Field Directors part or full-time in the Synods of Georgia, Missouri, Kentucky, Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas-Oklahoma, Virginia and West Virginia. We are prepared to pay these men a modest salary which will not upset their Social Security benefits, plus of course their travel and other expenses.

Here is an opportunity to render a very real service to our Lord at this critical time. If you are interested or know someone who might be available to help in preparing the way for a continuing Church which will be true to God's Word and loyal to our historic Presbyterian doctrine and polity, write or telephone Vice President P. Y. Matthews, Concerned Presbyterians, Inc., 2793-A Clairmont Road, Atlanta, Ga. 30329—phone (404) 636-4566.

OUR tapes are free to members. Write for list— Concerned Presbyterians, Inc., 100 No. Biscayne Blvd., Miami, Fla. 33132

# IF YOU ARE "CONCERNED" ABOUT THE TRENDS IN OUR CHURCH USE THIS ENROLLMENT BLANK TO ENLIST TODAY!

Please send information about Concerned Presbyterians, Inc. to the following members of the Presbyterian Church U.S.:

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# U.P.U.S.A. Defending Radicals, Anarchists, Communists

IN May, 1970, The United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. appropriated \$100,000. for a Legal Defense Fund to defend radicals (which the Church claims "are caught in the rising tide of repression by the institutions of law and justice.")

In July, 1970, they used \$25,000. from this Fund to provide bail and legal defense for the Black Panthers whose goal is to overthrow the government of the United States.

In April, 1971, they contributed \$15,000. to the NAACP Legal Defense Fund for use in the southeastern states.

In May, 1971, they gave \$10,000. to defend the notorious Communist, Angela Davis who is being tried for her part in the kidnapping and murder of a California judge.

The liberal leadership in the United Presbyterian Church not only condones this flagrant misuse of the Lord's money but it defends these outrageous gifts. The liberal leaders in control of our denomination plan to merge our Church with the even more liberal-dominated UPUSA.

If you don't want to have the money you give for the Lord's work used to defend radicals bent on destroying our country, it will be well to start encouraging the members of your congregation to join with those who will soon be forming a Presbyterian Church which will use its funds in ways to honor and glorify our Lord.

# THE CONCERNED PRESBYTERIAN

Dedicated to the Formation of a Continuing Church True to God's Word and Loyal to Historic Presbyterian Doctrine and Polity

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### Source of Guidelines

DANIEL Webster said, "If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering. But if we and our posterity neglect its instruction and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity."

In his first inaugural address George Washington said, "We ought to be no less persuaded that the propitious smiles of heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which heaven itself has ordained."

Herbert Hoover said, "As a nation we are indebted to the Book of Books for our national ideals and representative institutions. Our preservation rests in adhering to its principles."

# Why Church Unions Fail

IN answering the question "Why Do Church Unions Fail?" the *Evangelical Presbyterian* (New Zealand) points out that church unions of the ecumenical type invariably reduce doctrine from a strong and clearly defined position to a weak and vaguely defined position. The final result is either confusion with all the edge and thrust gone from the Gospel.

The radical ecumenists who seek to submerge our Church in the United Presbyterian Church USA love to quote Christ's high priestly prayer (John 17:20-26) "that they all may be one" to support their position. Here Jesus is speaking of the oneness which all true believers, regardless of denomination, have in Him. To use this prayer to justify the union of denominations—especially denominations in which the leaders have strayed from the clear teaching of the Bible—is a gross misinterpretation.

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