

April 17th, 1919.

The Rev. William Henry Roberts, D.D.,
Witherspoon Building,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Dr. Roberts,

I have just heard from Dr. Chamberlain as to the action of the Executive Committee of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in America with reference to the plan of which I told you when you were last in New York, to unite the Foreign Mission Boards of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches. I enclose a copy of the memorandum giving an account of the conferences which were held this winter by representatives of these Boards and which issued in the plan embodied in the memorandum. This memorandum has now been acted upon by four of the Foreign Mission Boards of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches, as follows:

The Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

"The memorandum regarding the union of the Boards and Committees of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States which had been made the order of the day, (and which is filed herewith as paper "A") was taken up for consideration, and it was voted heartily to approve the proposal to unite these Boards and Committees, and a committee was appointed consisting of the President of the Board, as Chairman, Mr. Speers and Mr. Spier, with power to add two additional names to their number, to confer with committees from the other Boards which might be willing to consider the definite plan of union embodied in the memorandum, this committee to confer also with representatives of the Women's Foreign Missionary Boards of the Presbyterian Church with regard to the relation of the Women's work of the various Presbyterian and Reformed Churches, and especially of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. to the proposed union. The Board felt full assurance in taking this position in view of repeated actions of the General Assembly, and especially its adoption at its last meeting in Columbus of the plan of federal union of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches which included provision for the establishment and appointment of an administrative agency to maintain and conduct the work of Foreign Missions in behalf of all the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches which might unite in the undertaking. At the same time, it is clearly understood that any action involving the union of the agencies proposed is subject to the review and judgment of the General Assembly."

Dr. W.H.Roberts -2-

The Executive Committee of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.

2
 "Your committee has carefully considered the matter referred to it and would recommend that the Executive Committee of Foreign Missions approve the general plan of uniting the Presbyterian and Reformed Foreign Mission work as proposed, and refer the matter to the General Assembly for advice."

The Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in America. 2

"The Executive Committee, having carefully considered, at a special meeting called for the purpose, a Memorandum with regard to the union of the Foreign Mission work of all the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States, and having noted the report of the conferences of the Corresponding Secretary with representative groups of Ministers in the various Synods of the Church, which revealed their favorable attitude, took the following unanimous action:
 VOTED

(1) That the general plan of unifying the administration of the Foreign Missionary Work of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States as set forth in the Memorandum and the modifications proposed by the Special Committee appointed by the Executive Committee, February 20, 1919, be recommended to the Board of Foreign Missions for approval, with a view to its presentation to General Synod at its forthcoming Meeting in June, 1919.

(2) That provision be made to insure,

- (a) The integrity of the Denomination.
- (b) The continuation of the personal relationship between Missionaries and individual Churches.
- (c) The same care in the selection and appointment of missionaries by the larger Body as has been exercised by the smaller constituent bodies, with a view to safeguarding the fullness and richness of the Gospel Message.

(3) That a Special Meeting of the Board of Foreign Missions be called for consideration of this action at 6:00 P.M., Tuesday, April 22nd, 1919, at the National Arts Club."

The Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in the United States.

5
 "Resolved that the Board approve of the Proposed Plan of the union of the Foreign Mission work of all the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States, and that a Committee of five be appointed to confer with similar committees of other Boards to still further consider this plan. The Committee consists of the President, Secretary, Dr. Charles E. Greitz, John W. Apple, Esq., and Dr. William E. Lamps."

I had hoped to be able to include in this letter the Board of Foreign Missions of the United Presbyterian Church. Dr. Anderson, the Secretary of that Board, wrote me that the matter would come up at its meeting on April 14th. I have not yet heard whether action was then taken.

Arden

How

Review

Cont. Open

11/1/00

Byrd

Shall we go ahead?

Relation of women

How we improve our mission?

If not to ahead - to what?

1) Quarterly joint mtg of our Bd.

2) Units connect mtg frequently.

3) Report our missions & plans

Stimulate Council to help us as they go home

These are the five principal foreign mission agencies of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches, and it seemed to the officers of these agencies in their conference that it would be wise to attempt to work out the problem first of all as between these five, then to seek to deal with whatever problems might be involved in the case of a number of other smaller bodies.

It has seemed to many of us that the arguments for union in the foreign mission work of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches were conclusive in favor of such union even if the Churches themselves were to continue separate and unrelated as heretofore. If, however, a federal union is now to be established that will very much simplify the problem, the chief difficulty of which has been to find a plan by which the united Board could be properly subject to the judicatories of the various churches, or some common judicatory thereof. The tentative plan as outlined in the memorandum has been designed to meet the situation whatever it might be.

We should be grateful for your counsel as to the wisest method of bringing the matter before the General Assembly. It will come, of course, to the standing committee on Foreign Missions in the records of the Board of Foreign Missions, and we presume that the proper course would be for us to ask through the standing committee on Foreign Missions for the General Assembly's approval of the Foreign Board's joining in such a union on the basis of some such plan as is outlined in the enclosed memorandum, which is the memorandum which has been before the Boards of the other bodies and which seeks to carry out the ideal embodied in the plan of union adopted by our General Assembly at its last meeting. We shall be very grateful for any counsel or suggestions as to the wise method of procedure. It has been necessary to hold many conferences in order to make sure that the point of view and difficulties of the foreign missionary agencies of the other bodies were fully met. I think it is a matter for great rejoicing that such remarkable progress has been made and only hope that we may hear that the United Presbyterian Board was able to approve.

Very faithfully yours,

6
That we approve of close cooperation in
the carrying on of the mission activities
of the Foreign Boards of the Presb. & Ref.
Churches in the U. S.

We recommend that a central agency
be created with powers clearly defined
to carry these federated activities into
effect.

That the president appoint a
committee of three, of which he
shall be one to present this matter
to the committees representing the
various boards concerned.

It is understood that the above
action is subject to the approval of
the Gen. Assembly of the U. P. Church.

W. B. ANDERSON
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

MILLS J. TAYLOR
ASSOCIATE SECRETARY

MISS ANNA A. MILLIGAN
EDUCATIONAL SECRETARY

ROBERT L. LATIMER, ESQ.
TREASURER
24 NORTH FRONT STREET

The Board of Foreign Missions
of the
United Presbyterian Church of North America
200 North Fifteenth Street
Philadelphia, Pa.

Mission Fields:

EGYPT—1854

INDIA—1855

THE SUDAN—1900

Cable Address:

EVANGELISM, PHILADELPHIA

*Ans. Dr. C. C. Chubbuck &
Chubbuck - Baltimore.*

RECEIVED

APR 29 1919

Mr. Speer

Wm H. Roberts

General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church
in the U. S. A.

REV. W. H. ROBERTS, D.D., LL.D.
STATED CLERK

WITHERSPOON BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

April 28, 1919.

Dr, Robert E. Speer,
Board of Foreign Missions,
156 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y.

Dear Doctor Speer:-

I have read carefully your communication of recent date with reference to the union in work of five of the Boards of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches. I approve highly of the plan therein contained, and submit to you the following additional considerations.

1. As the Stated Clerk of the Council of the Reformed Churches it is my duty to communicate with the General Assemblies and General Synods of the Churches in the Council. The General Synod of the Reformed Church in the U.S. has already passed what is called an enabling act authorizing its Board to elect its proportion of members of the Union Board of Foreign Missions. I am proposing to send to the other four Churches a communication containing such an enabling act based upon the fact that the governing bodies of the four Churches have agreed to the changes in the plan of Federal Union, in particular those contained in Articles 5 and 11. I enclose you a copy of the plan. Please let me hear from you personally as speedily as possible.

It is proper here that I should state that the Committee of the Southern Presbyterian Church which has been negotiating with the Committee of our Church, both being appointed to consider the subject of Organic Union or Federal Union, have agreed to submit to the two General Assemblies a plan of Federal Union for consideration and action. The Committee whose chairman I am, however, does not consent to the proposal of the Southern Committee to substitute the plan of Federal Union which it has drawn up, for the plan of Federal Union of the Council of the Reformed Churches which I enclose.

Sincerely yours,

Wm H. Roberts
St. Council Ref. Churches

Mr. Carter.

Mr. C.
✓

Please return this letter to

Mr. Speer.

Edwin F. Willis

CABLE ADDRESS
"LIBERATE" NASHVILLE

TELEPHONE
MAIN 1118

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES

216 UNION STREET P. O. BOX 158

EDWIN F. WILLIS,
TREASURER

RECEIVED

JUN 11 1919

Mr. Speer

NASHVILLE, TENN.
June 10th, 1919.

Handwritten initials or stamp

Dr. Robt. E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Dr. Speer:

Your letter of June 3rd received, and I have not had a chance to talk with Bishop Moore personally since his return. I talked with Dr. Rawlings a few minutes Saturday afternoon and he told me that they did not pass on the Union Seminary question at the June meeting but that he thought something might be worked out of it. I hope to see Bishop Moore soon.

When I paid for January, February and March I paid on the basis of one-third and I am enclosing a draft for \$246.00 to pay the difference between the one-half and the one-third for the three months. I made Mr. Day remittance for the first three months after April 1st on the basis of one-half and will continue that until we find out definitely about the Methodist proposition.

I had not seen the action of your Assembly in regard to the Interchurch World Movement and thank you very much for the information you gave me. The special Committee to which the Assembly referred the matter questioned the advisability of entering the Movement owing to its indefinite character. It, however, finally approved the Movement with the condition that it be conducted by our Committee on Systematic Beneficence and

Dr. Robt. E. Speer, #2.

Stewardship, which will keep our part of it entirely within our control. There was no other way to get the matter through; in fact, I told our Committee and our special Committee that I thought that was the proper course to pursue.

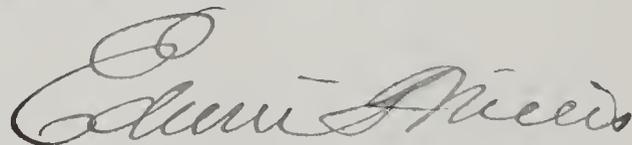
The action of our Assembly touching the consolidation of the five Boards was as follows:

"While rejoicing in the full and hearty cooperation and fellowship already existing among the Foreign Mission Boards, and Committees of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States, and trusting that they may become closer still, the Assembly does not see its way clear to consent to the complete unification of these bodies suggested by our Executive Committee."

I think the action of the Assembly establishing a Committee on Organic Union, the Committee to be selected by the Synods this Fall and to be unhampered in subjects to be considered by it, is a distinct advance by our church toward Organic Union with your church. I do not know when it will come but the Spirit is in the air, and I hope that I shall live to see it.

With kind regards, I am

Yours sincerely,



EFW/EB

Enc. 1.

W. B. Anderson

W. B. ANDERSON
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

MILLS J. TAYLOR
ASSOCIATE SECRETARY

MISS ANNA A. MILLIGAN
EDUCATIONAL SECRETARY

ROBERT L. LATIMER, ESQ.
TREASURER
24 NORTH FRONT STREET

The Board of Foreign Missions

of the

United Presbyterian Church of North America

200 North Fifteenth Street

Philadelphia, Pa.

Mission Fields:

EGYPT—1854

INDIA—1855

THE SUDAN—1900

Cable Address:

EVANGELISM, PHILADELPHIA

June 9, 1919.

My dear Mr. Speer:

Your kind letter of May 26th was forwarded to me and reached me during the meeting of the General Assembly of our Church at Monmouth, Illinois. I was much interested to know the action of the Assembly of the Southern Church and also that of the action of the Northern Church.

Our own Assembly took the following action:

" 7. [That in view of the advantages and economies to be gained through cooperation along certain lines of the Foreign Boards of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in America; and in view of the fact that already certain tentative arrangements to these agencies have been worked out by our Board, we recommend -

"(a) That the General Assembly approve the principle of cooperation involved.

"(b) That it instruct the Board of Foreign Missions to proceed with the development of the plan.

"(c) That if the central organization can be effected according to agreeable conditions, the Board be authorized to elect from among its members its proportionate share of the members of the new agency."]

This is practically the recommendation that was placed before the Assembly by our Board of Foreign Missions. While it does not seem to promise very much in the beginning I think that it offers abundant latitude for development. I am hoping that some central agency may be established that will mean a vital cooperation which I feel sure will commend itself to our Churches and rapidly expand.

Thanking you for forwarding the information with reference to the action of the two Presbyterian Assemblies, I am

Yours very sincerely,

Mr. Robert E. Speer,
New York City.

W. B. Anderson.

RECEIVED

JUN 10 1919

Mr. Speer

Wm I Chamberlain

COÖPERATING IN THE REFORMED CHURCH PROGRESS CAMPAIGN

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA
25 EAST 22ND STREET
NEW YORK

REV. WM. I. CHAMBERLAIN, PH.D.
FOREIGN SECRETARY

F. M. POTTER
ASSOCIATE SECRETARY

REV. WILLIAM J. VAN KERSEN
DISTRICT SECRETARY
HOLLAND, MICH.

REV. HENRY E. COBB, D.D.
PRESIDENT

REV. T. H. MACKENZIE, D.D.
CHAIRMAN, EXEC. COMM.

HOWELL S. BENNETT
TREASURER

CABLE ADDRESS: SYNODICAL, NEW YORK TELEPHONE: GRAMERCY 1593

RECEIVED

APR 15 1919

Mr. Speer

647

April 12, 1919

Dr. Robert E. Speer
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

My dear Dr. Speer:

I am writing to you of further progress made by our Executive Committee in the consideration of the proposal looking to the consolidation of the Boards of our Presbyterian and Reformed group.

At the meeting of our Executive Committee this week, a report was presented upon the visit to the Western Section of our Church with a view to ascertaining the attitude of leading and representative Ministers and laymen among the constituency which has very loyally and very generously supported the Foreign Mission work of our Church both as to men and money. Action was taken unanimously, as you will see from this statement:

"The Executive Committee, having carefully considered, at a special meeting called for the purpose, a Memorandum with regard to the union of the Foreign Mission Work of all the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States, and having noted the report of the conferences of the Corresponding Secretary with representative groups of Ministers in the various Synods of the Church, which revealed their favorable attitude, took the following unanimous action:

VOTED:

(1) That the general plan of unifying the administration of the Foreign Missionary Work of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States as set forth in the Memorandum and the modifications proposed by the

Special Committee appointed by the Executive Committee, February 20, 1919, be recommended to the Board of Foreign Missions for approval, with a view to its presentation to General Synod at its forthcoming Meeting in June, 1919.

- (2) That provision be made to insure,
 - (a) The integrity of the Denomination.
 - (b) The continuation of the personal relationship between Missionaries and individual Churches.
 - (c) The same care in the selection and appointment of Missionaries by the larger Body as has been exercised by the small^{er} constituent bodies, with a view to safeguarding the fullness and richness of the Gospel Message.

(3) That a Special Meeting of the Board of Foreign Missions be called for consideration of this action at 6:00 P.M., Tuesday, April 22nd, 1919, at the National Arts Club.

In view of the thorough discussion of these proposals, we anticipate that the action of the full Board will be an approval of the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

Yours very sincerely,



THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA

25 EAST 22ND STREET

NEW YORK

CABLE ADDRESS: SYNODICAL, NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: GRAMERCY 1593

REV. WM. I. CHAMBERLAIN, PH. D.,
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HOLLAND, MICH.

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PRESIDENT.

REV. T. H. MACKENZIE, D. D.,
CHAIRMAN, EXEC. COMM.

HOWELL S. BENNET,
TREASURER

RECEIVED

JUN 13 1919

Mr. Speer

June 12th, 1919

Dr. Robert E. Speer
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

My dear Dr. Speer:

You will be interested to learn the action of our General Synod this week upon the Proposal looking to the creation of a Central Board to administer the Foreign Missionary Work of the Presbyterian and Reformed Family of Churches. This session of our General Synod was one of the most impressive that I have ever attended. The delegates present constituted one of the strongest groups that have come together in many years to legislate for our Denomination. After a cordial and unanimous reception and approval of the Report and Recommendations of our Board of Foreign Missions upon the work of the year in general, the Supplementary Report was taken up with the Recommendations of the Standing Committee of General Synod favorable to the proposed Central Board. A long and earnest discussion took place, the conclusion being laid over until the next day when further opportunity would be given for quiet thought over-night. The closing debate on the following morning was of a high character and an evidence of a splendid Christian spirit. The few who seemed to have doubts as to the wisdom of the plan finally acknowledged themselves convinced, leading to a final favorable conclusion which was unanimous, followed by the singing of the Doxology and a deeply moving prayer.

By a fortunate circumstance, which doubtless was Providential, this historic debate and conclusion was followed by a very inspiring address by Dr. J. Campbell White, who was present to present to General Synod the Interchurch World Movement. This again was followed by a Resolution of approval.

The way for the presentation of this Proposal was somewhat prepared by the unusual report of the year, showing that in the contributions from the Churches and auxiliaries, the main dependable source of income of the Board, there had been an increase of 21%. Although even this large advance had not enabled us to overcome the extraordinary

6/12/19

expenditures of the year, its significance was plain and the assurance of our cooperation with any other Body would thus have the prestige of the strong recommittal of our Church to the Foreign Missionary Enterprise. The action of our General Synod, taken unanimously, was as follows:

1. This Synod approves the proposal to create a Central Board to administer the Foreign Missionary Work of the Reformed-Presbyterian Family of Churches in the United States.

2. It empowers its Board of Foreign Missions to enter into negotiations with the constituted Boards of these Sister Churches in accordance with the proposed plan submitted to this Synod.

3. It authorizes its Board to fully cooperate with the Boards of the other Churches to consummate the creation of one Central Board of Foreign Missions, provided:

(a) That the integrity of the Denomination be not impaired.

(b) That the personal relationship between Missionaries and individual Churches be continued.

(c) That the utmost care be exercised in the selection and appointment of Missionaries with a view to maintaining the definitely Scriptural character of the Missionary's message.

(d) That in the consummation of this plan full conference be had with the missionary force of our Church.]

I have ^{had} pleasure in forwarding you copy of the Supplementary Report presented by our Board to General Synod.

Yours very sincerely,



WIC:LW

W. B. Anderson

"Pray ye the Lord of the Harvest, that He send Laborers into His Harvest."

Convocation Committee

of the United Presbyterian Church

1002 Bessemer Building

REV. J. K. MCCLURKIN, D. D., CHAIRMAN
REV. MILLS J. TAYLOR, SECRETARY

REV. J. HOWARD BOYD,
SPECIAL SECRETARY

RECEIVED

APR 30 1919

Mr. Spear

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Apr. 29th, 1919.

Mr. Robert E. Spear,
156 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y.

My Dear Mr. Spear:-

At a meeting of our board of Foreign Missions on the evening of the 25th inst. the subject of the union of the Reformed and Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions was again taken up for discussion. The board had previously discussed this subject three or four time and had not been able to arrive at any definite conclusions.

For the present our board is not willing to commit itself to such unqualified union as is suggested in the draft of proposals. It has taken action, however, to the effect that it favors a close federation of the boards. It also favors the creation of a central board that would have powers of initiative and control within clearly defined limits.

We are supposing that the committees appointed from the other boards will be meeting to discuss this whole action at some time before your General Assembly in May, so our board has appointed a committee to meet and to confer with such committees from other boards, if there be such. The names of the members of that committee are Rev. M. G. Kyle, D.D., Rev. C.S. Cleland, D.D., and Rev. W. B. Anderson, D.D.

Personally I wish it might be possible for such committees from the five boards to meet and discuss this matter before the meetings of our assemblies so that if possible we might be able to present to our assembly some unified action. I think it would be desirable to have the results of such a meeting of the committees presented to our boards that they might thoroughly discuss them before the action was sent to the assemblies.

I earnestly hope that we may be able to go a long way in this matter of unifying our work. I hope that the action of our board may not be so far out of harmony with the actions of the other boards as to preclude the possibility of our participating in such a union of federation.

I am in Pittsburgh today and cannot send you the exact wording of the action of our board. Am on my way to Cleveland to the All-Board Meeting of the Inter-Church World Movement and am hoping that I may see you there.

Yours very sincerely,

A. P. Dickerson.

WBA-RK

Wm I Chamberlain

COÖPERATING IN THE REFORMED CHURCH PROGRESS CAMPAIGN

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA

25 EAST 22ND STREET

NEW YORK

CABLE ADDRESS: SYNODICAL. NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: GRAMERCY 1593

REV. WM. I. CHAMBERLAIN, PH.D.
FOREIGN SECRETARY

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PRESIDENT

REV. T. H. MACKENZIE, D.D.
CHAIRMAN, EXEC. COMM.

HOWELL S. BENNETT
TREASURER

RECEIVED

APR 28 5 09 99

Mr. Speer

WIC

April 24, 1919

Dr. Robert E. Speer
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

My dear Dr. Speer:

I am sending you with much pleasure copy of the action taken by our Board of Foreign Missions at a Special Meeting called for the purpose this week. You will see that this action is similar to that taken by the Executive Committee at a previous Meeting, of which I sent you a copy. The modification pertains more particularly to the last paragraph of the proviso. It was felt that the form in which this stood in the Minute of the Executive Committee carried with it a possible inference which might reflect upon other constituent bodies in the proposed consolidation. It was not so intended. The use of the comparative was with reference to all of the five constituent bodies, each of which would be smaller than the proposed consolidated Board. Since, however, it was open to this interpretation, the Board decided to change the paragraph.

This Special Meeting was largely attended and was representative of the various elements of life and thought in our Church. The unanimity with which the action was taken is therefore especially significant.

Yours sincerely,

Wm I Chamberlain

WIC:LW
ENC.

*I send you a copy of the modifications
referred to in the action I think*

EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES
of the
BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS, R.C.A.

April 22, 1919.

VOTED:

- (1) That the general plan of unifying the administration of the Foreign Missionary Work of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States, as set forth in the original Memorandum on the subject and the modifications proposed by the Special Committee appointed by the Executive Committee, February 20, 1919, be approved.
- (2) Provided:
 - (a) That the integrity of the Denomination be not impaired.
 - (b) That the personal relationship between Missionaries and individual Churches be continued.
 - (c) That the utmost care be exercised in the selection and appointment of Missionaries with a view to maintaining the definitely Scriptural character of the Missionary's message.
- (3) That the President appoint a Special Committee, of which he shall be a member, to present these Resolutions to General Synod at its forthcoming Meeting in June, 1919.

Wm. I. Chamberlain

COÖPERATING IN THE REFORMED CHURCH PROGRESS CAMPAIGN

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA
25 EAST 22ND STREET
NEW YORK

REV. WM. I. CHAMBERLAIN, PH.D.
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HOWELL S. BENNET
TREASURER

CABLE ADDRESS: SYNODICAL. NEW YORK TELEPHONE: GRAMERCY 1593

RECEIVED

APR 30 1919

Mr. Speer

April 29, 1919

Dr. Robert E. Speer
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

My dear Dr. Speer:

I have your note of April 28th. I thought I had given you a copy of the Report of the Special Committee appointed by our Executive Committee to draw up certain modifications on the proposed union of our Boards that would safeguard certain interests which we felt desirable and which we thought would not affect the principle involved. I am quite sure that at one of our meetings I talked over these modifications with you. At any rate I now enclose a copy. I remember that when we went over them together you considered that there was nothing in them that would weaken the principle involved in the proposed consolidation of our Boards.

I had a note from Dr. W. B. Anderson a day or two ago acknowledging copy of the final action of our Board for which he telegraphed me in view of the Meeting of the United Presbyterian Board on the 25th. I have not yet heard the result of the action of that Board.

With cordial regards,

Yours very sincerely,

Wm. I. Chamberlain

WIC:LW
ENC.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED AT THE SPECIAL MEETING

RECEIVED

OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

APR 30 1919

February 20, 1919

Mr. Speer

In giving general approval of the plan for a consolidated administration of the work carried on by the Boards of Foreign Missions of the several Churches of the Presbyterian Family, the Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in America makes the following suggestions as to modifications or extensions of said plan:

(1) In view of the special interest which the different Churches must have in the work of the fields which have heretofore been under their care, it is suggested that it shall be the privilege of the members of the proposed Board from each denomination to consider and to present to the New Executive Committee suggestions and recommendations on matters that have especially to do with the interest of the fields that have been heretofore under their care and that such suggestions and recommendations shall have the careful and sympathetic consideration of the Executive Committee and shall be allowed all possible weight in determining its decisions.

(2) In view of the special responsibility which each Church must of necessity assume for the cultivation of that part of the Home Base which is under its immediate jurisdiction, it is to be understood that the Department of the Home Base shall have, at least for the present, a sub-division directly responsible for the cultivation of that portion of the Home Base which is now under the immediate supervision of each denomination, and such subdivision shall establish such office or offices as shall be necessary for it most efficiently to meet its responsibility.

(3) That approval of this Board is given subject to a satisfactory solution of the problems involved in a joint administration of the work heretofore carried on by the Woman's Boards of the respective Churches.

(4) This approval is still further conditioned upon a similar approval being given by at least three other Churches of the Presbyterian Family.

(5) It is still further conditioned upon the approval of the plan by the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America.

(6) Provision should be made for the orderly withdrawal of any one of the cooperating Boards in the event of its being deemed advisable upon due notice by such Board.

S. H. Chester

TELEPHONE
MAIN 1118

CABLE ADDRESS
"LIBERATE" NASHVILLE

RECEIVED

MAR 24 1919

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES

216 UNION STREET

P. O. BOX 158

Mr. Speer

S. H. CHESTER,
SECRETARY OF FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE

NASHVILLE, TENN. March 21, 1919.

Dr. Robt. I. Speer,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Speer,-

Enclosed is copy of the minute adopted by our Executive Committee at our meeting last week in regard to the unification of our Foreign Missionary Work. I also enclose a copy of our old Manual, in the back of which you will find the charter of our Executive Committee.

I am expecting to see you next week at the meeting of the Executive Committee of our Cooperation Committee.

Very cordially yours,

S. H. Chester
Secretary.

C-S.

RECEIVED

MAR 24 1919

Mr. Spear

"Your committee has carefully considered the matter referred to it and would recommend that the Executive Committee of Foreign Missions approve the general plan of uniting the Presbyterian and Reformed Foreign Mission work as proposed, and refer the matter to the General Assembly for advice."

(March 11th, 1919 Committee Meeting)

RECEIVED

APR 9 1919

Mr. Speer

Findley M. Wilson
The Board of Foreign Missions

OF THE SYNOD OF THE

Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America

CABLE ADDRESSES: "OLIVETREES, NEW YORK" AND "METHENY, PHILADELPHIA"

JOSEPH M. STEELE, TREASURER
1600 ARCH STREET

WM. G. CARSON, TRANSPORTATION AGENT
205 SOUTH FORTY-SECOND STREET

FINDLEY M. WILSON, D. D., CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
2517 NORTH FRANKLIN STREET

Philadelphia, April 8, 1919

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
New York City.

My dear Dr. Speer:-

Replying to your kind letter of the 5th Inst. I can report that I placed in the hands of our board members the statement and outline of plan you sent some time ago. No action has been taken by our board. Such may scarcely be expected, so closely is our board connected with Synod, and in no matter of such importance does the board feel empowered to act.

And I think it quite unlikely, whatever the sentiment of individual members of our Synod, that the Church will find itself prepared for such a radical change. The firm hold of our Church on distinctives makes it appear unlikely that the Synod would give favorable consideration to the plan. For myself I see no reason, at least from that view-point, why the other Churches in question may not and should not get together. I sincerely hope they may do so. Perhaps with that realized the way would appear for us to follow in process of time.

Our Synod has not taken action with regard to the plan of federal union. I fear that there again the appearance of relinquishing our distinctive testimony would make it difficult to secure affirmative action. It is with difficulty that a small Church maintains its life these times. May be it will prove to be the Master's will that, as *with* the corn of wheat, it shall fall into the ground and die—that fruit may be brought forth. In any case, "the foundation of the Lord remaineth sure", and the Kingdom of the ^{Lord} moves on to victory!

With ever cordial feelings I am,

Most heartily yours,

Findley M. Wilson

A. R. Bartholomew
Board of Foreign Missions

RECEIVED

MAR 17 1919

Mr. Speer

ALL MONIES FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS
SHOULD BE SENT TO THE SECRETARY

Reformed Church in the United States

REFORMED CHURCH BUILDING
FIFTEENTH AND RACE STREETS
PHILADELPHIA

REV. ALLEN R. BARTHOLOMEW, D. D.
SECRETARY

CABLE ADDRESS:
"ALLENBARTH" PHILADELPHIA
BELL PHONE

PHILADELPHIA, PA. March 15, 1919.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,

New York City.

My dear Dr. Speer:

I hope you will pardon my delay in sending you the action of our Board of Foreign Missions in regard to the proposed plan for a United Foreign Mission Board. Immediately after the annual meeting of our Board, I took sick and was confined to bed for more than two weeks. I rejoice to tell you that our Board took the following favorable action.

Resolved, That the Board approve of the Proposed Plan of the Union of the Foreign Mission work of all the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States, and that a Committee of five be appointed to confer with similar committees of other Boards to still further consider this plan. The Committee consists of the President, Secretary, Dr. Charles E. Creitz, John W. Apple, Esq., and Dr. William E. Lampe.

I still hope hope that in the near future our churches may see the wisdom of an organic union which I personally favor with all my heart.

Trusting this will find you well, I remain, with kindest regards,

Very cordially yours,

Allen R. Bartholomew

Secretary.

W. B. Anderson

W. B. ANDERSON
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
MILLS J. TAYLOR
ASSOCIATE SECRETARY
MISS ANNA A. MILLIGAN
EDUCATIONAL SECRETARY
ROBERT L. LATIMER, ESQ.
TREASURER
24 NORTH FRONT STREET

The Board of Foreign Missions
of the
United Presbyterian Church of North America
200 North Fifteenth Street
Philadelphia, Pa.

Mission Fields:
EGYPT—1854
INDIA—1855
THE SUDAN—1900
Cable Address:
EVANGELISM, PHILADELPHIA

June 28, 1919.

RECEIVED

JUL 1 1919

Mr. Speer

My dear Dr. Speer:

I am sorry to write that it will not be possible for me to meet with the committee of the Boards interested in the cooperation of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches on Friday afternoon, July 11th.

I know too, that one other member of our committee, Dr. Kyle, has an engagement for that date that will detain him from New York.

Since the measure of cooperation approved by our Assembly will not even approximate the organic union of the Boards, perhaps it would be well for the other Boards not to wait for our representatives to confer on the subject. I am expecting to be absent from the office almost continuously from July 1st to August 20th, and I appreciate the fact that there is urgency in the matter of an early meeting of the Boards interested.

Yours very sincerely,

W. B. Anderson

Rev. Robt. E. Speer, D.D.,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

A-M

P. S. - I know that you will remain assured of my deep interest in this proposed cooperation and a desire that our Board should participate in every way possible.

A.

OUTLINE OF THE PLAN OF FEDERAL UNION.

WHEREAS, we believe that by a Federal Union on the part of the Presbyterian and Reformed churches of the United States a closer and more efficient unity of organization and work may be secured, we propose to our respective General Assemblies the following plan:

1. A Federal Union shall be formed into which all the various Presbyterian and Reformed Churches of our country shall be invited, as follows:

The Reformed Church in the U. S.
The United Presbyterian Church of North America.
The Reformed Church in America.
The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod.
The Christian Reformed Church in North America.
The Welsh Calvinistic Methodist or Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.
The Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America.
The General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church.
The Cumberland Presbyterian Church.
The Cumberland Church (Colored).

2. This Federal Union shall become effective when three or more of the Churches in the list above shall adopt this tentative plan of Union.

3. The Ecclesiastical Organizations of the constituent Churches acceding to this plan shall, for the present, remain unchanged and their several Judicatories or other Ecclesiastical agencies shall continue to exercise the powers and duties committed to them by the Constitutions of the constituent Churches respectively except in respect to the matters hereinafter expressly delegated to the "Federal Assembly" to be constituted.

4. The "Federal Assembly" to be constituted shall be the declarative, executive, administrative and judicial agency of the Federal Union, and shall possess the Ecclesiastical powers hereinafter named and shall represent in one body all the Churches federated therein and shall constitute the bond of Union, Peace and Correspondence among all the congregations and courts of the constituent Churches and shall have the title "The Federal Assembly of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the U. S. A."

5. Subject to a more detailed enumeration of its powers to be set forth in a formal Constitution to be adopted by the legal action of the constituent Churches, the powers to be delegated to said "Federal Assembly" shall be in substance as follows:

(a) To receive into the United Body any other Ecclesiastical Body conforming to the doctrine and order of the United Churches of this Federal Union. The question of organic union of any two or more of the constituent Churches shall be a matter outside the province of the "Federal Assembly" and entirely within the jurisdiction of the Churches proposing such union.

(b) In general to recommend to the constituent Churches measures for the promotion of charity, benevolence, truth and holiness.

(c) To correspond with other Churches.

(d) To institute and superintend the agencies necessary in the general work of Evangelization by the Federal Union, namely, Foreign Missions, Publication, Ministerial Relief, Schools and Colleges, Home Missions, Church Erection, Colored Work, Evangelism, Stewardship and such other causes as may be expressly delegated to it subject to the provisions of the Constitution to be adopted.

(e) The "General Assemblies" or "General Synods" of the constituent Churches shall send up their records for information and shall report to the "Federal Assembly" on all administrative matters and the "Federal Assembly" shall receive and consider said reports and shall make such deliverances thereon as are calculated to stimulate the whole Church on matters pertaining to the advancement of the Kingdom of Christ.

(f) Inasmuch as it has been found in the experience of some of the Churches concerned that efficiency in the work of Home Missions is greatly increased by local responsibility, supervision and control, the direct administration in Home Missions shall continue to be exercised as at present in each constituent Church through the General Assembly, General Synod and other lower Courts except in cases where any constituent church shall deem it expedient to commit any part of its work of Home Missions to the administration of the Federal Assembly.

(g) The "Federal Assembly" shall have the power, by executive commission or otherwise, as it may from time to time determine, to exercise judicial functions in settling all question of comity arising between the constituent Churches and to enforce any and all agreements into by or between any two or more of said constituent Churches. The findings of the "Federal Assembly" in any case shall be final and shall be enforced through the courts of the constituent Churches.

(h) It shall exercise such power as to doctrine as may be necessary in the discharge of the administrative and judicial functions conferred upon it by the Constitution to be adopted, but it shall not have power to frame symbols of faith for any of the constituent Churches.

(i) It shall exercise such judicial powers as may be required for the work committed to it by the Constitution but cases of judicial process involving heresy or immorality arising in any of the constituent Churches shall terminate, as at present, in said Churches.

(j) It shall hold and administer all properties given to said "Federal Assembly" or any of its chartered, incorporated or other agencies.

6. The "Federal Assembly" shall consist of two sets of commissions as follows:

Six Ministers and six Elders elected by the General Assembly or General Synod of each of the constituent Churches and second, of two Commissioners elected by each subordinate Synod or Body corresponding thereto, and two additional Commissioners for each fifty thousand communicants, or major fraction thereof, after the first fifty thousand, said Commissioners to be Ministers and ruling Elders in equal numbers from each subordinate Synod or Body corresponding thereto.

These two sets of Commissioners shall sit as one Body but whenever any one of the Commissioners elected by the "General Assembly" or "General Synod" of any constituent Church shall call for a vote by Churches, the action before the United Body shall not pass until adopted by a () majority of the Churches expressed through the Commissioners elected by the General Assemblies or General Synods of the constituent Churches.

7. The "Federal Assembly" shall meet biennially and special meetings shall be called as provided in the Constitution to be hereafter adopted.

8. It is agreed that the General Assemblies or General Synods of the constituent Churches shall provide a fund sufficient for the expenses of the "Federal Assembly" on the basis of the numerical strength of the constituent Churches.

9. All of the property rights of the constituent Churches shall remain as at present vested and shall not be changed except by the proper and constitutional procedure of the said respective constituent Churches. It shall be agreed upon by the constituent Churches entering into said Federal Union that the General Assembly or General Synod or Body corresponding thereto is the Supreme Court as respects property rights of the respective constituent Churches.

10. The details of the Constitution shall be taken up and reported upon by the Committees to be appointed by the Supreme Judicatories of the respective Churches which shall approve of this outline of a tentative plan. The Constitution shall be adopted and may be amended by a favorable vote of all the constituent bodies, each Church acting in accordance with its own constitution.

OUTLINE OF PLAN FOR FEDERAL UNION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH U. S. A.
and THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH U. S. PROPOSED BY THE U. S. A. COMMITTEE

Whereas, in joint session in Cincinnati February 19, 1919 the Committee on Union of the U. S. Church made certain proposals for Federal Union which were carefully considered by the U. S. A. Committee, and

Whereas, the said U. S. A. Committee preferred organic union in the sense of consolidation, in line with the action of its Assembly, but expressed itself that in view of the fact that the U. S. Committee regarded itself estopped by its General Assembly from considering organic union, and

Whereas, the U. S. A. Committee therefore, declared itself ready, in the interest of closer relations to consider Federal Union in line with the proposal of the U. S. Committee and agreed to the appointment of a joint Sub-Committee consisting of three members from each general committee whose duty it was to work out details of such Federal Union and report to a joint meeting of the two General Committees to be held in Pittsburgh at the call of the two chairmen, and

Whereas, at the meeting in Pittsburgh the General U. S. A. Committee received the report of the Sub-Committee and after prolonged consideration took the following action:

"Be it resolved that we favor Federal Union with the understanding that it involves the creation of a Federal Assembly that shall have real authority of a court of final resort," and submit the following outline of a plan which we believe will be acceptable to our General Assembly:

WHEREAS, we believe that by a federal union on the part of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches of the United States, a closer and more efficient unity of organization and work may be secured, we propose to our respective General Assemblies the following plan:

1. A Federal Union shall be formed, into which all the various Presbyterian and Reformed Churches of our country shall be invited, as follows: (List)
2. This Federal Union shall become effective when three or more of the Presbyterian or Reformed Churches shall adopt the plan of union to be proposed.
3. The ecclesiastical organizations of the constituent churches acceding to this plan shall for the present remain unchanged, and their several judicatories or other ecclesiastical agencies shall continue to exercise the powers and duties committed to them by the constitutions of the constituent churches respectively, except in respect to the matters hereinafter expressly delegated to the "Federal Assembly" to be constituted.
4. The General Assemblies or General Synods, or bodies corresponding thereto, of the constituent churches, in relation to this Plan, shall continue as at present constituted, and the ratio of representation therein shall remain exclusively within the control of the constituent churches.

5. The "Federal Assembly" to be constituted, shall be the executive, legislative and judicial agency of the united churches of the Federal Union, and shall possess the ecclesiastical powers usually possessed by the supreme governing bodies of Presbyterian and Reformed churches, and analogous to the civil powers conferred by the constitution on the Federal Government of the United States, subject to the amendment of the proposed constitution in the same manner in which it shall be originally adopted, and shall represent in one body all the churches federated therein, and shall constitute the bond of union, peace and correspondence among all the congregations and courts of the constituent churches, and shall have the title, the "Federal Assembly of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the U. S. A."

6. Subject to a more detailed enumeration of its powers, to be set forth in a formal constitution to be adopted by the legal action of the constituent churches, the powers to be delegated to said Federal Assembly shall be in substance as follows:

(a) To receive into the united body any other ecclesiastical body whose organization will conform to the doctrine and order of the united churches of this Federal Union. The question of the organic union of any two or more of the constituent churches shall be a matter outside of the province of the Federal Assembly and entirely within the jurisdiction of the churches proposing such union.

(b) In general to recommend to the constituent churches measures for the promotion of charity, benevolence, truth and holiness.

(c) To correspond with other churches.

(d) To administer the work of foreign missions, publication, ministerial relief, schools and colleges,* home missions, colored work, evangelism, stewardship, and such other causes as may be expressly delegated to it.

(e) The General Assemblies or General Synods of the constituent churches shall report to the Federal Assembly biennially, submitting their records for information and review, and the Federal Assembly shall make such deliverances and take such action as are calculated to stimulate the whole church on matters pertaining to the advancement of the Kingdom of Christ.

(f) To hold and administer all properties given to said Federal Assembly or any of its chartered or incorporated agencies.

7. The Federal Assembly shall consist of 12 Commissioners,- 6 ministers and 6 elders, elected by the General Assembly or General Synod of each of the constituent churches; and of the two Commissioners elected by each subordinate Synod or body corresponding thereto, and two additional commissioners for each additional 25,000 communicants, or major fraction thereof, after the first 25,000, said Commissioners to be ministers and ruling elders in equal numbers, from each subordinate Synod or body corresponding thereto.

8. The Federal Assembly shall meet biennially, and special meetings shall be called as provided in the Constitution to be hereafter adopted.

9. It is agreed that the General Assemblies or General Synods of the constituent churches shall provide by appropriate apportionment and assessment, a fund sufficient for the expenses of said "Federal Assembly" to be laid and raised on the basis of the numerical strength of the constituent churches.

10. The details of the Constitution shall be taken up and reported upon by the committees to be appointed by the supreme judicatories of the respective churches which shall approve of this outline of a plan.

* In placing the administration of Home Missions under the central of the Federal Assembly, it is not intended to depart from the present policy of the two Assemblies to delegate the initiation, direction and control of Home Missions or any other agency its judgment suggests to local ecclesiastical bodies.

MINORITY REPORT.

The undersigned respectfully beg leave to submit the following Minority Report:

HISTORIC STATEMENT.

The General Assembly of 1917 adopted the following resolutions: "Whereas, one hundred and ninety-five presbyteries have taken action on an Overture looking to organic union between the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. and the Presbyterian Church, U. S.; therefore, be it

Resolved: 1. That this Assembly has for many years stood ready and is now ready to enter into negotiations with a view to organic union with the Presbyterian Church, U. S.

Resolved: 2. That this matter be committed to the General Assembly's Committee on Church Cooperation and Union, with instruction to enter into negotiations with the Presbyterian Church in the U. S., through a Committee appointed by the General Assembly of that Church, if it should deem it advisable to do so."

The two committees of these churches held several joint meetings and submitted a report to their respective General Assemblies in 1918 in which the committee of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. reported and recommended a plan of organic union of the two Churches, and the committee of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. reported and recommended a plan of federal union of all the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. of 1918 instructed its Committee on Church Cooperation and Union "to continue negotiations with the Committee of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. on Organic Union and on Federation."

The General Assembly of 1918 also adopted the following declaration:

"(1) That we, the Commissioners to the One Hundredth and Thirtieth General Assembly now in session at Columbus, Ohio, do declare and place on record our profound conviction that the time has come for Organic Union of the Evangelical Churches of America," and it took action initiating such a movement, which is now under way and is making hopeful progress. Seventeen of the Evangelical Churches of America have already entered into this movement.

The two committees of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. and the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. have held several joint meetings during the past year and now submit and recommend a Plan of Federal Union of all the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in America, which is the same as the plan submitted last year by the Committee of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. with a number of modifications.

The undersigned respectfully beg leave to dissent from this plan recommended to this General Assembly for the following reasons:

NOT ORGANIC UNION

(1) It is not a plan for the organic union of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. and the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. which one hundred and ninety-five presbyterians and the General Assembly of our Church in 1917 set out to achieve. Only the organic union of these two Presbyteries, which were formerly one body and are now separated by only slight differences, will meet the spirit and needs and demands of this day on the subject of church union. Only a real union will reach and remove the wasteful and often unhappy duplications and rivalries and friction that necessarily attend the presence and activities of these two Churches on the same territory. The Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. after having initiated, only one year ago, the great movement for the organic union of the Evangelical Churches in America, can hardly with consistency now proceed to form a federal union that falls so far short of its

great aim and endeavor.

LIMITATIONS AND FAILURES OF THE PLAN.

(2) The proposed plan is a federal union with the limitations and failures of such a plan. It erects over the General Assemblies of the constituent Churches a so-called "Federal General Assembly," which is not a General Assembly according to the history and meaning of Presbyterianism; for it is not a supreme judicatory of a Church and is so limited in its powers that it amounts to little more than a Council for discussion and advice. Its chief failure is that it leaves the two Presbyterian Churches, in which we are chiefly interested, as two independent denominations with their existing Assemblies, Synods and Presbyteries operating on the same fields, and thereby does not remove but ^{retains} ~~retains~~ the root of the present waste and friction, the elimination of which is the express object and demand of all present movements for Church union. This plan would not give us one Church, speaking with one voice on doctrine and polity and administration, but would still leave rival denominations with the attendant evils that inhere in such division. It is not a real union but a makeshift.

A specially objectionable feature of the proposed plan is that it provides for two kinds of commissioners in the Federal General Assembly, who must, on demand, vote separately, thus introducing the principle of two houses, after the manner of our federal House and Senate, and this is a cumbersome arrangement and a distinction foreign to our Presbyterianism.

AN UNSATISFACTORY EXPEDIENT

(3) It is contended, however, that the proposed plan of federal union is a step towards organic union and that we should accept it as the best result we can get at the present time. This is the plea that has won the majority of our committee, as they prefer the organic union which our Presbyteries and General Assembly in 1917 set out to attain and instructed our committee to work for. No one can certainly predict the ultimate outcome of the plan in this

respect, but it does postpone organic union, probably for the present generation, and may delay it beyond the time in which such union could be attained by a single direct step. It is even possible if not probable that this plan will prove a hindrance rather than a help to organic union by quieting the sentiment for such union and retarding the way to it; and as regards the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. and the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. it may actually fix and harden the sectional line of division that for almost sixty years has been the hurt and grief of our once united and still common Presbyterianism. It is generally admitted on both sides of this division that organic union is bound to come in the providence of God. Would it not be better for both sides to wait for this union to come in a direct way rather than resort to an unsatisfactory temporary expedient, that can give no assurance that it will help our real aim and may even hinder it?

WE NOW HAVE A FEDERAL UNION.

(4) A fourth and in some respects the strongest reason against this proposed plan is that a closely similar plan of federal union is already in existence and operation and includes the two Presbyterian Churches with which we are chiefly concerned. The Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. is now a constituent member of several federations, such as the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, the Pan-Presbyterian Alliance, and others. But one such federation, the Council of the Reformed Churches in America Holding the Presbyterian System, is so nearly like the proposed federal union that the difference does not make the new federation worth while. This Council went into effect in 1907 and now embraces the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A., the Presbyterian Church in the U. S., the United Presbyterian Church of North America, the Reformed Church in America, the Reformed Church in U. S., and the Colored Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Its constitution has been recently amended so that it now has more power. The Preamble to its Constitution reads as follows: "The Presbyterian

and Reformed Churches in America, desiring to evince and develop their spiritual unity, and to promote closer relations and more effective administrative cooperation among these Churches, hereby adopt a Preamble, a Basis of Federal Union, and also the following amended Articles of Agreement in furtherance of these purposes." It is to be noted that this Preamble designates this plan a "Federal Union." The powers of the Council are expressed in eighteen Articles, of which our space will permit us to quote only one, as follows: "(5) The General Council shall have power to promote the cooperation of the constituent Churches in their Foreign Missionary Work, and also their general work, in the United States of America, so far as denominationally organized, in connection with Home Missions, Evangelism, Work among the Colored People, Church Erection, Sabbath-Schools, Publications, Education, Ministerial Relief and Comity, and shall exercise this power in the establishing and appointing of administrative agencies to maintain and conduct the work representative of any one or more of the causes mentioned, as consented to by the several supreme judicatories concerned. The Council may advise and recommend in other matters pertaining to the general welfare of the Kingdom of Christ." These powers do not differ materially from those granted to the proposed Federal General Assembly. It is true that the powers of the Council are such as are "consented to by the several supreme judicatories concerned," but we may surely expect that the powers of the proposed Federal General Assembly will be subject to a similar limitation in the proposed constitution of the Federal Union which is yet to be framed and adopted. Our own committee, in its meetings with the committee of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S., always encountered this limitation, and we feel sure that it will be insisted on in the proposed constitution. But whether this limitation is placed in the proposed constitution or not, the proposed Federal General Assembly will not essentially differ from the existing Council, of which the two Presbyterian Churches with which we are concerned are already members and are now acting under its provisions. The Council, as its Minutes show, discusses

and acts upon Foreign Missions, Home Missions, and all branches of Church work, and what more can the proposed Federal General Assembly do? And if we succeed in organizing the new Federal Union, what is to become of the existing Council? In case all the constituent Churches of the old Federal Union do not think it worth while to scrap the existing machinery and enter the new Federal Union, what are we going to do with the existing Federal Union, or say to the constituent Churches that remain in it? If the existing Federal Union is not satisfactory, it would seem that the proper thing to do is to amend its constitution, as it already has been amended, so that it will meet present needs and demands, if this be possible. But we do not think any federal union can go to the root of our divisions and remove the evils which can be cured only by organic union.

A COSTLY DUPLICATION OF MACHINERY.

(5) The proposed Federal General Assembly will contain about 200 members from our two Presbyterian Churches alone; and other Churches entering will increase this number. The expense of such a body would mount up into thousands of dollars and be no small burden on our own Church as the largest body in the Federal Union. The multiplication of ecclesiastical machinery, with its constantly increasing expense, is a growing complaint in most of our churches and especially in our own Church. This proposed Federal Union will erect on top of all our agencies another complicated piece of machinery that will considerably increase our expenses without any adequate return of increased efficiency in service. Another incidental result of this plan is that it will call for a reconstruction of our Form of Government from the top to the bottom.

SUMMARY OF OBJECTIONS.

In short: This proposed Federal Union is not the organic union our presbyteries and General Assembly set out to achieve and falls far short of our ideal and aim; it is only another federation that cures no ills, prevents no waste,

does not go to the root of the evil, but leaves rival Assemblies, Synods and presbyteries competing on the same ground; it is no sure half-way measure and step to organic union, but officially postpones it, fixes existing divisions, and may hinder real union; it differs so little from the existing Council of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches that it has no sufficient justification for attempting to crowd into the same field with that organization; and it is a cumbersome and costly, unnecessary and superfluous addition to our already complicated and expensive ecclesiastical machinery.

The Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. and the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. are working together in harmony and under the visible blessing of God; they are already joined in a Federal Union; is it not wiser to continue in the present relations and wait God's time for reunion, than to attempt a plan that at the best can promise so little and may postpone our real aim?

RECOMMENDATIONS.

We recommend that our Committee on Church Cooperation and Union be directed to continue, in all wise ways but without unduly pressing our attentions on other Churches, its effort to open the way for organic union with our affiliated Presbyterian and Reformed Churches, and to prosecute the movement it has already initiated, under the direction of the General Assembly of 1918, to bring about the organic union of the Evangelical Churches in America.

Respectfully submitted,

(signed) JAMES H. SNOWDEN.

An Act to Incorporate the Board of Foreign Missions of the
Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the
United States of America.

The people of the State of New York represented in the Senate and
Assembly do enact as follows:

Section 1. - A.B.C.D. X.Y.Z., etc., citizens of the State of New York, and such
others as they may associate with themselves, are hereby constituted a body corpo-
rate and politic for ever, by the name of The Board of Foreign Missions of the
Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States of America, for the purpose
of establishing and conducting Christian missions among the unevangelized or pagan
nations, and the general diffusion of Christianity and by that name they and their
successors and associates shall be capable of taking by purchase, grant, devise or
otherwise, holding, conveying or otherwise disposing of any real or personal estate
for the purposes of the said corporation.

Section 2. - The management and disposition of the affairs and property
of the said Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches
in the United States of America shall be vested in fifty trustees, who shall be
appointed from time to time as follows: Fourteen by the General Assembly of the
Presbyterian Church in the United States of America; nine by the General Assembly
of the Presbyterian Church in the United States; nine by the General Assembly of
the United Presbyterian Church of North America; nine by the General Synod of the
Reformed Church in America; nine by the General Synod of the Reformed Church in
the United States - in such manner and for such terms as each respective Assembly
or Synod may determine. Not less than twenty-six members of the Board shall con-
stitute a quorum for the purpose of making by-laws or for holding any special meet-
ing, but for all other purposes and at stated meetings twelve shall be a quorum.

Section 3. - The said corporation shall possess the general powers, rights and
privileges and be subject to liabilities and provisions contained in the eighteenth
chapter of the first part of the Revised Statutes so far as the same is applicable.

Section 4. - This Act shall take effect immediately.

NOTE 1. I have said nothing with regard to the annual income which the Board is entitled to receive on any estate within the State of New York, nor with regard to the amount of property which the Board may hold. Is it necessary that such specifications should be made? If so, can they be made in excess of the provisions of Section 12 of the General Corporation Law of New York as amended in 1909 as follows:

"SECTION 12. - 'If any general or special law heretofore
"passed, or any certificate of incorporation, shall limit the
"amount of property a corporation other than a stock corpora-
"tion may take or hold, such corporation may take and hold
"property of the value of six million dollars or less, or the yearly
"income derived from which shall be six hundred thousand dol-
"lars or less, notwithstanding any such limitations. In computing
"the value of such property, no increase in value arising other-
"wise than from improvements made thereon shall be taken
"into account."

NOTE 2. On the present charter of the Presbyterian Board it is provided as follows:

SECTION 2. - The said corporation shall possess the general powers, rights and privileges, and be subject to liabilities and provisions contained in the eighteenth chapter of the first part of the Revised Statutes, so far as the same is applicable, and also subject to the provisions of chapter three hundred and sixty of the laws of eighteen hundred and sixty.

Section 2 of the Charter of the Dutch Reformed Board is the same as this, omitting the last clause, namely, "and also subject to the provisions of chapter three hundred and sixty of the laws of eighteen hundred and sixty."

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NOTE 4. I have made no provision for any increase or decrease of the number of trustees. I do not see at present the necessity for such a provision and it could only be arranged in some very cumbersome way unless the Board itself might/determine any increase or decrease in its numbers. Would the legislature allow this? In that case I think it would be well to include such a provision.

An Act to Incorporate the Board of Foreign Missions of the
Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the
United States of America.

The people of the State of New York represented in the Senate and
Assembly do enact as follows:

Section 1. - A.B.C.D. X.Y.Z., etc., citizens of the State of New York, and such
others as they may associate with themselves, are hereby constituted a body corpo-
rate and politic for ever, by the name of The Board of Foreign Missions of the
Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States of America, for the purpose
of establishing and conducting Christian missions among the unevangelized or pagan
nations, and the general diffusion of Christianity and by that name they and their
successors and associates shall be capable of taking by purchase, grant, devise or
otherwise, holding, conveying or otherwise disposing of any real or personal estate
for the purposes of the said corporation.

Section 2. - The management and disposition of the affairs and property
of the said Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches
in the United States of America shall be vested in fifty trustees, who shall be
appointed from time to time as follows: Fourteen by the General Assembly of the
Presbyterian Church in the United States of America; nine by the General Assembly
of the Presbyterian Church in the United States; nine by the General Assembly of
the United Presbyterian Church of North America; nine by the General Synod of the
Reformed Church in America; nine by the General Synod of the Reformed Church in
the United States - in such manner and for such terms as each respective Assembly
or Synod may determine. Not less than twenty-six members of the Board shall con-
stitute a quorum for the purpose of making by-laws or for holding any special meet-
ing, but for all other purposes and at stated meetings twelve shall be a quorum.

Section 3. - The said corporation shall possess the general powers, rights and
privileges and be subject to liabilities and provisions contained in the eighteenth
chapter of the first part of the Revised Statutes so far as the same is applicable.

Section 4. - This Act shall take effect immediately.

NOTE 1. I have said nothing with regard to the annual income which the Board is entitled to receive on any estate within the State of New York, nor with regard to the amount of property which the Board may hold. Is it necessary that such specifications should be made? If so, can they be made in excess of the provisions of Section 12 of the General Corporation Law of New York as amended in 1909 as follows:

"SECTION 12. - 'If any general or special law heretofore
"passed, or any certificate of incorporation, shall limit the
"amount of property a corporation other than a stock corpora-
"tion may take or hold, such corporation may take and hold
"property of the value of six million dollars or less, or the yearly
"income derived from which shall be six hundred thousand dol-
"lars or less, notwithstanding any such limitations. In computing
"the value of such property, no increase in value arising other-
"wise than from improvements made thereon shall be taken
"into account."

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FOREIGN MISSION BOARDS
REFORMED - PRESBYTERIAN FAMILY

<u>Names</u>	<u>Founded</u>	<u>Xn. Comm.</u>	<u>Miss'ns.</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Per Cap.</u>
Presby. U.S.A.	1837	273,000	1,360	\$2,900,000	\$1.79
Presby. U.S.	1861	84,350	381	668,400	1.86
Presby. United	1859	46,600	240	550,400	3.11
R. C. U. S.	1878	8,600	77	240,800	.70
R. C. A.	1852	23,200	140	370,300	2.56
		<u>162,750</u>	<u>838</u>	<u>1,829,700</u>	



NAPOLEON AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

S. H. Chester

FIFTY-NINTH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

RECEIVED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MAY 26 1919

IN THE UNITED STATES

W. Speer

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

May 22

Dear Bro Speer:

Our Assembly was very sympathetically disposed toward our Unificatⁿ plan, but the failure of the Federal Assembly scheme led them to decline it as I felt sure it would. We continued our Comm. on Cooperatⁿ and Union, & there was a notable change in the tone of the discussion from that which obtained at B'ham 2 years ago.

There was a majority of 2 to 1 against all propositions to exclude Organic Union from the scope of the Committee negotiations.

This was my 25th anniversary & I am just thro' with a 5 minute response to a rising vote of appreciation which of course I appreciated.

Cordially yrs. S. H. Chester
If the Fed. Assembly had gone thro' there would have been no serious opposition to our Unificatⁿ proposal.

S H C Lester

RECEIVED

MAY 4 1919

Copy.

Mr. Speer

April 2, 1919.

Rev. John A. Marquis, General Secretary,

156 Fifth Ave.,

New York City, N. Y.

Dear Brother,—

Your letter is very much appreciated.

I am sorry to hear what you have to say about the situation in your Committee on union. I have not seen the report of our Union Committee, but was led to hope that the proposed Federal Assembly would be given sufficient administrative functions to make it practically a bond of real organic union.

Even though it may not be all that it ought to be as agreed on in the two reports, still if it has sufficient scope of authority to function as a super-visory body for the proposed combined Foreign Mission Board, I think that would justify its adoption by all those who favor real union of the two Churches. If that arrangement can be put through it will be organic union as respects the foreign mission work of the Reformed Churches. Then if we can demonstrate in a year or two that this plan works to the advantage of the cause of Foreign Missions that will be a great argument for applying it more largely in the other branches of the Church's work. In other words, if this foreign mission merger can be made with an arrangement for any kind of super-visory agency that will

Rev. John A. Marquis-2.
May 2, 1919.

satisfy our Church (which will never consent to turning over the Foreign Missions work to an unsupervised Board of any kind) that will be a great step toward ultimate organic union all along the line.

I wonder if from that point of view you might not see your way clear to support the majority report of your Committee if that is the best that can be done?

I am sending a copy of this letter to Dr. Speer, and asking him to confer with you on the subject.

I had a wire from Dr. Speer yesterday asking whether some representative of our Board could meet representatives of the other Presbyterian Boards in New York on May 12th. I will have to be in New Orleans on that date; so will the chairman of our committee on Business and Finance and our Treasurer. I do not think there is any member of our Committee who can be in New York on that date who would be sufficiently familiar with the matter under consideration to represent us in regard to it. Rev. Chas. H. Pratt will be there working in connection with the Interchurch World Movement and might be able to give our point of view.

With best wishes,

Cordially and fraternally yours,

Signed: S. H. Chester,

c. c. to Dr. Speer.

Secretary.

Signed in Dr. Chester's absence from the city.

April 17th, 1919.

The Rev. William Henry Roberts, D.D.,
Witherspoon Building,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Dr. Roberts,

I have just heard from Dr. Chamberlain as to the action of the Executive Committee of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in America with reference to the plan of which I told you when you were last in New York, to unite the Foreign Mission Boards of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches. I enclose a copy of the memorandum giving an account of the conferences which were held this winter by representatives of these Boards and which issued in the plan embodied in the memorandum. This memorandum has now been acted upon by four of the Foreign Mission Boards of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches, as follows:

The Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

"The memorandum regarding the union of the Boards and Committees of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States which had been made the order of the day, (and which is filed herewith as paper "A") was taken up for consideration, and it was voted heartily to approve the proposal to unite these Boards and Committees, and a committee was appointed consisting of the President of the Board, as Chairman, Mr. Speers and Mr. Speer, with power to add two additional names to their number, to confer with committees from the other Boards which might be willing to consider the definite plan of union embodied in the memorandum, this committee to confer also with representatives of the Women's Foreign Missionary Boards of the Presbyterian Church with regard to the relation of the Women's work of the various Presbyterian and Reformed Churches, and especially of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. to the proposed union. The Board felt full assurance in taking this position in view of repeated actions of the General Assembly, and especially its adoption at its last meeting in Columbus of the plan of federal union of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches which included provision for the establishment and appointment of an administrative agency to maintain and conduct the work of Foreign Missions in behalf of all the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches which might unite in the undertaking. At the same time, it is clearly understood that any action involving the union of the agencies proposed is subject to the review and judgment of the General Assembly."

The Executive Committee of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.

"Your committee has carefully considered the matter referred to it and would recommend that the Executive Committee of Foreign Missions approve the general plan of uniting the Presbyterian and Reformed Foreign Mission work as proposed, and refer the matter to the General Assembly for advice."

The Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in America.

"The Executive Committee, having carefully considered, at a special meeting called for the purpose, a Memorandum with regard to the union of the Foreign Mission work of all the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States, and having noted the report of the conferences of the Corresponding Secretary with representative groups of Ministers in the various Synods of the Church, which revealed their favorable attitude, took the following unanimous action:
VOTED

(1) That the general plan of unifying the administration of the Foreign Missionary Work of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States as set forth in the Memorandum and the modifications proposed by the Special Committee appointed by the Executive Committee, February 20, 1919, be recommended to the Board of Foreign Missions for approval, with a view to its presentation to General Synod at its forthcoming Meeting in June, 1919.

(2) That provision be made to insure,

(a) The integrity of the Denomination.

(b) The continuation of the personal relationship between Missionaries and individual Churches.

(c) The same care in the selection and appointment of missionaries by the larger Body as has been exercised by the smaller constituent bodies, with a view to safeguarding the fullness and richness of the Gospel Message.

(3) That a Special Meeting of the Board of Foreign Missions be called for consideration of this action at 6:00 P.M., Tuesday, April 22nd, 1919, at the National Arts Club."

The Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in the United States.

"Resolved that the Board approve of the Proposed Plan of the union of the Foreign Mission work of all the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States, and that a Committee of five be appointed to confer with similar committees of other Boards to still further consider this plan. The Committee consists of the President, Secretary, Dr. Charles E. Greitz, John W. Apple, Esq., and Dr. William E. Lampe."

I had hoped to be able to include in this letter the Board of Foreign Missions of the United Presbyterian Church. Dr. Anderson, the Secretary of that Board, wrote me that the matter would come up at its meeting on April 14th. I have not yet heard whether action was then taken.

These are the five principal foreign mission agencies of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches, and it seemed to the officers of these agencies in their conference that it would be wise to attempt to work out the problem first of all as between these five, then to seek to deal with whatever problems might be involved in the case of a number of other smaller bodies.

It has seemed to many of us that the arguments for union in the foreign mission work of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches were conclusive in favor of such union even if the Churches themselves were to continue separate and unrelated as heretofore. If, however, a federal union is now to be established that will very much simplify the problem, the chief difficulty of which has been to find a plan by which the united Board could be properly subject to the judicatories of the various churches, or some common judicatory thereof. The tentative plan as outlined in the memorandum has been designed to meet the situation whatever it might be.

We should be grateful for your counsel as to the wisest method of bringing the matter before the General Assembly. It will come, of course, to the standing committee on Foreign Missions in the records of the Board of Foreign Missions, and we presume that the proper course would be for us to ask through the standing committee on Foreign Missions for the General Assembly's approval of the Foreign Board's joining in such a union on the basis of some such plan as is outlined in the enclosed memorandum, which is the memorandum which has been before the Boards of the other bodies and which seeks to carry out the ideal embodied in the plan of union adopted by our General Assembly at its last meeting. We shall be very grateful for any counsel or suggestions as to the wise method of procedure. It has been necessary to hold many conferences in order to make sure that the point of view and difficulties of the foreign missionary agencies of the other bodies were fully met. I think it is a matter for great rejoicing that such remarkable progress has been made and only hope that we may hear that the United Presbyterian Board was able to approve.

Very faithfully yours,

MAR 17

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

OF THE

Mr. Spear

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES

216 UNION STREET

P. O. BOX 158

S. H. CHESTER,
SECRETARY OF FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE

NASHVILLE, TENN.

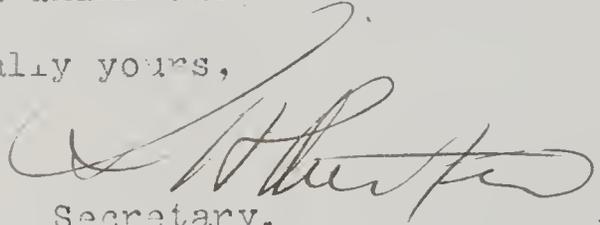
March 13, 1919.

Dr. Robt. E. Speer,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Speer, -

I am very happy to write you from my sick bed that our Committee unanimously approved the proposed unification of the Foreign Missionary work of the Presbyterian Churches and ordered that the proposed plan be submitted to the General Assembly. I thought that we would have a majority for it, but I am most ^{gratifyingly} surprised that we had a unanimous vote for it.

Hastily and cordially yours,


Secretary.

C-S.

STATEMENT TO THE

Foreign Missionaries	of the	Presbyterian Church	in the U.S.A.
"	"	"	" Presbyterian Church in the U.S.
"	"	"	" Reformed Church in America
"	"	"	" Reformed Church in the United States
"	"	"	" United Presbyterian Church.

Dear Friends:—

I

The Council of the Reformed churches in America holding the Presbyterian system at its meeting in Philadelphia, March 19th and 20th, 1918, adopted a plan of federal union consisting of a Preamble, a Basis of Union and Articles of Agreement. The fifth of these Articles of Agreement provided for the united administration of the foreign missionary work of these churches as follows:

"The General Council (of the Presbyterian Church in America) shall have power to promote the cooperation of the constituent Churches in their Foreign Missionary work, and also in their general work in the United States of America, so far as denominationally organized, in connection with Home Missions, Evangelism, Work among the Colored People, Church Election, Sabbath-schools, Publications, Education, Ministerial Relief and Comity, and shall exercise this power in the establishing and appointing of administrative agencies to maintain and conduct the work representative of any one or more of the causes mentioned, as consented to by the several supreme judicatories concerned.

This plan of union with its Preamble, Basis and Articles of Agreement was adopted by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. on May 23, 1918 by the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church on
and by the Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States
on

A meeting of representatives of the foreign mission agencies of the Presbyterian and Reformed churches was held in Atlantic City on
to consider what these agencies could do in the way of mutual helpful cooperation pending any further steps that might be taken looking toward the union of their work.

II.

On December 17, 1918, when representatives of the various home and foreign mission agencies were in New York attending the Conference called to consider a united missionary campaign of all the missionary and educational agencies of all the evangelical churches at the invitation of the Executive Committee of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S., through its Chairman, the Rev. James I. Vance, D.D., a small meeting was held at which members or executive officers of the following organizations were present:

The Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.
The Executive Committee of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.
The Board of Foreign Missions of the United Presbyterian Church.
The Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in the U.S.
The Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in America.

At this meeting one of the Secretaries of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., presented a paper entitled "A Memorandum With Regard to the Union of the Foreign Mission Work of all the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States." This contained a proposal which none of the above agencies had considered but was laid before the meeting for its free discussion. After full conference together it was unanimously agreed that it was desirable to seek to accomplish a unification of the administration of the work of the Boards of Foreign Missions of the five bodies represented. A Special Committee was appointed to receive suggestions regarding the paper presented and to revise the draft in the light of these suggestions .

Upon receiving suggestions these were incorporated and a revised Memorandum presented to the representatives of the Presbyterian and Reformed Boards who were at the Annual Conference of the Foreign Mission Boards of the United States and Canada in January 1919. At this meeting, at which about fifty were present including a number of Missionaries, there was a very full and harmonious discussion of the proposal, and those who were present found themselves in full agreement with the view that the contemplated consolidation of the Foreign Mission Boards of this group of Churches was most desirable if it could be accomplished. The Missionaries at home from the Field

on Furlough were especially earnest in their approval. Further suggestions as to the form of the Memorandum were made and incorporated.

This Memorandum, as it appears below, was then submitted to the various Boards, with the request that they give it full consideration and approval. if it commended itself to their judgment, with a further request that each agency appoint a Committee to confer with similar Committees from the other agencies in carrying the matter forward. The hope was also expressed that this great problem might be faced without rashness or presumption on the one hand, and yet with courage and trust.

Memorandum With Regard to the Union of the Foreign Mission Work
of all the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in
the United States.

(The full memorandum to be inseted in the letter)

III.

This Memorandum was presented to the five missionary agencies mentioned and actions were taken by these agencies as follows:

By the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

"The Memorandum regarding the Union of the Boards and Committees of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States which had been made the order of the day, (and which is filed herewith as paper "A") was taken up for consideration, and it was voted heartily to approve the proposal to unite these Boards and Committees, and a Committee was appointed consisting of the President of the Board, as Chairman, Mr. Speers and Mr. Speer, with power to add two additional names to their number, to confer with committees from the other Boards which might be willing to consider the definite plan of union embodied in the Memorandum, this committee to confer also with representatives of the Women's Foreign Missionary Boards of the Presbyterian Church with regard to the relation of the Women's work of the various Presbyterian and Reformed Churches, and especially of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. to the proposed union. The Board felt full assurance in taking this position in view of repeated actions of the General Assembly, and especially its adoption at its last meeting in Columbus of the plan of federal union of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches which included provision for the establishment and appointment of an administrative agency to maintain and conduct the work of Foreign Missions in behalf of all the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches which might unite in the undertaking. At the same time, it is clearly understood that any action involving the union of the agencies proposed is subject to the review and judgment of the General Assembly."

By the Executive Committee of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.

"Your Committee has carefully considered the matter referred to it and would recommend that the Executive Committee of Foreign Missions approve the general plan of uniting the Presbyterian and Reformed Foreign Mission work

as proposed, and refer the matter to the General Assembly for advice."

By the Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in America.

Action of the Executive Committee, April 9, 1919

The Executive Committee, having carefully considered, at a Special Meeting called for the purpose (February 20, 1919) a Memorandum with Regard to the Union of the Foreign Mission Work of all the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States, and having noted the report of the conferences of the Corresponding Secretary with representative groups of Ministers in the various Synods of the Church, which revealed their favorable attitude, took unanimous action:

This action with slight alterations was adopted by the full Board and appears in its Minutes as follows:

Action of the Board- Special Meeting, April 22, 1919.

In accordance with the call of the Meeting the recommendation of the Executive Committee, April 9, 1919, relative to the union of the Foreign Mission Work of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States was considered, and after thorough discussion was unanimously approved in the following modified form:

VOTED:

(1) That the general plan of unifying the administration of the Foreign Missionary Work of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States, as set forth in the original Memorandum on the subject and the Modifications proposed by the Special Committee appointed by the Executive Committee, February 20, 1919, be approved,

(2) Provided:

- (a) That the integrity of the Denomination be not impaired,
- (b) That the personal relationship between Missionaries and individual Churches be continued.
- (c) That the utmost care be exercised in the selection and appointment of Missionaries with a view to maintaining the definitely Scriptural character of the Missionary's message.

(3) That the President appoint a Special Committee, of which he shall be a member, to present these Resolutions to General Synod at its forthcoming Meeting in June, 1919.

By the Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in the United States.

"Resolved that the Board approve of the Proposed plan of the union of the Foreign Mission work of all the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States, and that a Committee of five be appointed to confer with similar committees of other Boards to still further consider this plan. The Committee consists of the President, Secretary, Dr. Charles E. Greitz, John W. Apple, Esq. and Dr. William E. Lampe."

By the Board of Foreign Missions of the United Presbyterian Church of North America.

"That we approve of close cooperation in the carrying on of the mission activities of the Foreign Boards of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the U.S.

We recommend that a central agency be created with powers clearly defined to carry these federated activities into effect.

That the President appoint a committee of three, of which he shall be one to present this matter to the committees representing the other boards concerned

It is understood that the above action is subject to the approval of the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church."

All these actions of these five Boards were taken unanimously.

IV

The actions of the Boards were reported to the Assemblies and Synods at

their meetings in the spring of 1919 and action was taken as follows:

By the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

"That the approval of the Assembly be given to the effort to unite in one joint Board of Foreign Missions, the Foreign Mission Agencies of the Assemblies and Synods of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States; and that it authorize its own Board of Foreign Missions to proceed with the negotiations for such union and, in accordance with the plan which has been submitted to the Standing Committee on Foreign Missions, to enter into the fullest measure of cooperation or of legal and organic union with as many of the Foreign Mission Agencies of the Reformed and Presbyterian Churches as may be possible, providing that in the consummation of this plan, ample conference shall be had with the missionary force of our Church." *****

"That with regard to the fields in China and India, the Assembly further expresses its satisfaction and joy in the progress which the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in China and India, in whose establishment as independent Churches this Assembly has happily shared, have made toward a larger realization of Christian unity, both through the establishment of effective and autonomous church organizations with Synods and National Assemblies, and in preparing the way for complete union with other Christian bodies, notably the Congregational churches founded by the British and American Congregational Missions, and the Welsh Calvinistic Methodist churches.****

"That the Assembly notes with profound gratitude the continued prosperity of the work in India, and approves of the efforts being made by the Presbyterian Church in India to promote the largest measure of unity.***

"That the Board of Foreign Missions be bidden unhesitatingly to go forward; that it be encouraged and instructed to carry onward in every possible way the movement of Christian cooperation and unity, which past Assemblies have so clearly endorsed, and which the conditions of the present have made even more urgent."***

By the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States.

"While rejoicing in the full and hearty cooperation and fellowship already existing among the Foreign Mission Boards, and Committees of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States, and trusting that they may become closer still, the Assembly does not see its way clear to consent to the complete unification of these bodies suggested by our Executive Committee."

In taking this action the General Assembly of the Southern Presbyterian Church, it is believed, did not mean to express disapproval of the plan or unwillingness to join in it. Our understanding is that it simply felt that it would be wiser to defer action for a year, in view of the renewed conference which the Assembly authorized with the Northern Presbyterian Church on the subject of union, this conference to be free to consider the question of organic union between the two churches.

The General Synod of the Reformed Church in America.

1. This Synod approves the proposal to create a Central Board to administer the Foreign Missionary Work of the Reformed-Presbyterian Family of Churches in the United States.

2. It empowers its Board of Foreign Missions to enter into negotiations with the constituted Boards of these Sister Churches in accordance with the proposed plan submitted to this Synod.

3. It authorizes its Board to fully cooperate with the Boards of the other Churches to consummate the creation of one Central Board of Foreign Missions, provided;

- (a) That the integrity of the Denomination be not impaired.
- (b) That the personal relationship between Missionaries and individual Churches be continued.
- (c) That the utmost care be exercised in the selection and appointment of Missionaries with a view to maintaining the definitely Scriptural character of the Missionary's message.
- (d) That in the consummation of this plan full conference be had with the missionary force of our Church.

By the Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States.

(Because of Dr. Bartholomew's illness the plan was not presented to the Synod)

By the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church.

"That in view of the advantages and economies to be gained through cooperation along certain lines of the Foreign Boards of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in America; and in view of the fact that already certain tentative arrangements to these agencies have been worked out by our Board, we recommend -

- (a) That the General Assembly approve the principle of cooperation involved.
- (b) That it instruct the Board of Foreign Missions to proceed with the development of the plan.
- (c) That if the central organization can be effected according to agreeable conditions, the Board be authorized to elect from among its members its proportionate share of the members of the new agency."

V

In view of these actions of the Church courts, representatives of the Committees which the Boards had appointed to act for them in conferences on the subject met in New York City on July 11, 1919. It was clear to all that further preparatory steps were necessary before we should be ready for that measure of common and united action, to which we venture to believe that God is leading us, it was

voted accordingly -

1. To suggest to the Boards the advisability of their holding several joint Board meetings during the coming fall and winter in which they could consider their common missionary problems and interests.

2. To suggest to the Executive officers of the Boards that they should meet in conference prior to these Board meetings.

3. To prepare and send to the missionaries of the five churches this historical statement and to request them to send to their respective Boards any suggestions which individually or as missions they might be able to make with regard to the increase of the efficiency and the unity of the Foreign Mission Work of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches.

4. To recommend to the Five Boards for their consideration the unanimous judgment of those who were present at this meeting of July 11th, that the entire Foreign Missionary Work of the Churches should be brought together in the united Board and that this Board should be composed jointly of men and women.

We are deeply impressed by the fact that in all our Mission fields the churches which have resulted from our work are united. This unity of the churches abroad is so unifying our missionary interests and responsibilities as to encourage the belief that we are doing right in seeking to achieve this larger unity at home. We rejoice in the deepening fellowship and unity characteristic of our churches and Church courts in America, and the actions which have been taken and which are reported in this communication confirm us in the faith that the Divine Spirit is leading us forward. Let us join our counsels and prayers to the end that we may not err or falter in following this guidance.

Very faithfully yours,

W. B. Anderson
William I Chamberlain
Allan R. Bartholomew
S. H. Chester
Robert E. Speer.

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA

25 EAST 22ND STREET

NEW YORK

CABLE ADDRESS: SYNODICAL, NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: GRAMERCY 1593

REV. WM. I. CHAMBERLAIN, PH. D.,
FOREIGN SECRETARY

F. M. POTTER,
ASSOCIATE SECRETARY

REV. WILLIAM J. VAN KERSEN,
DISTRICT SECRETARY
HOLLAND, MICH.

REV. HENRY E. COBB, D. D.,
PRESIDENT.

REV. T. H. MACKENZIE, D. D.,
CHAIRMAN, EXEC. COMM.

HOWELL S. BENNET,
TREASURER

July 23, 1919.

Doctor Robert E. Speer, Treas.,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Doctor Speer:

Enclosed you will find a copy of letter to Dr. Chamberlain from Dr. Bartholomew and the proposed letter to the missionaries in the field with certain suggestions.

As Dr. Chamberlain is absent from the office and will not return until August first, I am turning this over to you as I know that you are as much concerned as he.

Yours sincerely,

F. M. Potter

FMP:VE

last to Dr. Speer & get the copy

COPY.

Philadelphia, Pa, July 22, 1919

Rev. William I Chamberlain D.D.,
New York City, N.Y

My dear Dr. Chamberlain:

I am very sorry that I had to delay returning the Statement to be sent to the Missions of our several Denominations. I have been absent from the office since last Thursday. We had a very successful conference with our missionaries at Hood College, Frederick, Md.

Enclosed please find the Statement with few additions.

My understanding is that each Board Secretary will send this Statement with an explanatory letter to his Missions?

With all good wishes and kindest regards to you and Dr. Speer, I remain, as ever,

Cordially your,

(signed) Allen R. Bartholomew
Secretary.

S. H. Chester

RECEIVED

JUL 28 1919

Mr. Spear

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES

216 UNION STREET

P. O. BOX 158

S. H. CHESTER,
SECRETARY OF FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE

NASHVILLE, TENN.

July 24, 1919.

Dr. Robert E. Spear,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

Dear Dr. Spear:

I am returning your proposed joint letter with one or two minor changes where it refers to our work. Considering the variety of sentiment that may be found among our missionaries on the subject of straight out organic union it seems to me to be better not to emphasize that particular phase of the subject. I have come to feel that perhaps the least that is said about it the sooner it will come to pass.

I also doubt whether our Committee will feel authorized to participate in the joint board meetings referred to, in as much as our Assembly did not see its way clear to consent to the proposed unification under the conditions which prevailed. I feel confident that our Assembly would have endorsed the plan if the report of the Committee on Federal Union had been adopted. Their report was defeated by votes of those who favored organic union which in my opinion was a mistake. As I wrote you once before I was satisfied that if the Federal Assembly had been organized so that we would have had a supervisory agency for the proposed consolidated board our Assembly would have favored the organization of the board, and then I felt that in the course of one or two years we could have given such a demonstration of the advantage of united work as would strongly react in favor of union all along the line.

One difficulty of our participation in joint board meetings is the fact that we are off to ourselves and could not take part in them without a very considerable

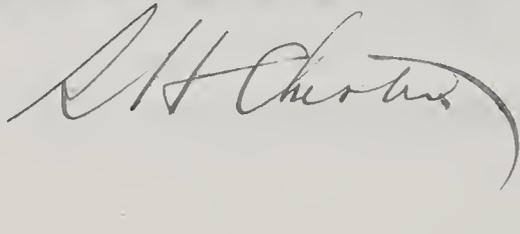
No. 2 R. E. S.

expenditure of time and money. I think our Committee will be glad to appoint a representative to attend any such meetings as may be arranged for by the other boards in and around New York.

With very best wishes,

Cordially and fraternally yours,

SHC

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. H. Chester". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "SHC".

STATEMENT TO THE

Foreign Missionaries of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.
" " " " Presbyterian Church in the U.S.
" " " " Reformed Church in America
" " " " Reformed Church in the United States
" " " " United Presbyterian Church.

Dear Friends:-

1

The Council of the Reformed churches in America holding the Presbyterian system at its meeting in Philadelphia, March 19th and 20th, 1918, adopted a plan of federal union consisting of a preamble, a Basis of Union and Articles of Agreement. The fifth of these articles of Agreement provided for the united administration of the foreign missionary work of these churches as follows:

"The General Council (of the Presbyterian Church in America) shall have power to promote the cooperation of the constituent Churches in their Foreign Missionary work, and also in their general work in the United States of America, so far as denominationally organized, in connection with Home Missions, Evangelism, Work among the Colored people, Church Erection, Sabbath-schools, Publications, Education, Ministerial Relief and Comity, and shall exercise this power in the establishing and appointing of administrative agencies to maintain and conduct the work representative of any one or more of the causes mentioned, as consented to by the several supreme judicatories concerned.

This plan of union with its Preamble, Basis and Articles of Agreement was adopted by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. on May 23, 1918 by the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church on _____ and by the Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States on _____

A meeting of representatives of the foreign mission agencies of the Presbyterian and Reformed churches was held in Atlantic City on _____ to consider what these agencies could do in the way of mutual helpful cooperation pending any further steps that might be taken looking toward the union of their work.

II.

On December 17, 1918, when representatives of the various home and foreign mission agencies were in New York attending the Conference called to consider a united missionary campaign of all the missionary and educational agencies of all the evangelical churches at the invitation of the Executive Committee of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S., through its Chairman, the Rev. James I. Yancey, D.D., a small meeting was held at which members or executive officers of the following organizations were present:

The Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.
The Executive Committee of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.
The Board of Foreign Missions of the United Presbyterian Church.
The Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in the U.S.
The Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in America.

At this meeting one of the Secretaries of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., presented a paper entitled "A Memorandum with regard to the Union of the Foreign Mission Work of all the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States." This contained a proposal which none of the above agencies had considered but was laid before the meeting for its free discussion. After full conference together it was unanimously agreed that it was desirable to seek to accomplish a unification of the administration of the work of the Boards of Foreign Missions of the five bodies represented. A Special Committee was appointed to receive suggestions regarding the paper presented and to revise the draft in the light of those suggestions.

Upon receiving suggestions these were incorporated and a revised Memorandum presented to the representatives of the Presbyterian and Reformed Boards who were at the Annual Conference of the Foreign Mission Boards of the United States and Canada in January 1919. At this meeting, at which about fifty were present including a number of Missionaries, there was a very full and harmonious discussion of the proposal, and those who were present found themselves in full agreement with the view that the contemplated consolidation of the Foreign Mission Boards of this group of Churches was most desirable if it could be accomplished. The Missionaries at home from the Field

Page 3.

on Furlough were especially earnest in their approval. Further suggestions as to the form of the Memorandum were made and incorporated.

This Memorandum, as it appears below, was then submitted to the various Boards, with the request that they give it full consideration and approval, if it commended itself to their judgment, with a further request that each agency appoint a Committee to confer with similar Committees from the other agencies in carrying the matter forward. The hope was also expressed that this great problem might be faced without rashness or presumption on the one hand, and yet with courage and trust.

Memorandum With Regard to the Union of the Foreign Mission Work
of all the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in
the United States.

(The full memorandum to be inserted in the letter)

III.

This Memorandum was presented to the five missionary agencies mentioned and actions were taken by these agencies as follows:

By the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

"The Memorandum regarding the Union of the Boards and Committees of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States which had been made the order of the day, (and which is filed herewith as paper "A") was taken up for consideration, and it was voted heartily to approve the proposal to unite these Boards and Committees, and a Committee was appointed consisting of the President of the Board, as Chairman, Mr. Speers and Mr. Speer, with power to add two additional names to their number, to confer with committees from the other Boards which might be willing to consider the definite plan of union embodied in the Memorandum, this committee to confer also with representatives of the Women's Foreign Missionary Boards of the Presbyterian Church with regard to the relation of the Women's work of the various Presbyterian and Reformed Churches, and especially of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. to the proposed union. The Board felt full assurance in taking this position in view of repeated actions of the General Assembly, and especially its adoption at its last meeting in Columbus of the plan of federal union of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches which included provision for the establishment and appointment of an administrative agency to maintain and conduct the work of Foreign Missions in behalf of all the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches which might unite in the undertaking. At the same time, it is clearly understood that any action involving the union of the agencies proposed is subject to the review and judgment of the General Assembly."

By the Executive Committee of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.

"Your Committee has carefully considered the matter referred to it and would recommend that the Executive Committee of Foreign Missions approve the general plan of uniting the Presbyterian and Reformed Foreign Mission work

as proposed, and refer the matter to the General Assembly for advice."

By the Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in America.

Action of the Executive Committee, April 9, 1919

The Executive Committee, having carefully considered, at a Special Meeting called for the purpose (February 20, 1919) a Memorandum with regard to the Union of the Foreign Mission Work of all the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States, and having noted the report of the conferences of the Corresponding Secretary with representative groups of Ministers in the various Synods of the Church, which revealed their favorable attitude, took unanimous action:

This action with slight alterations was adopted by the full Board and appears in its Minutes as follows:

Action of the Board- Special Meeting, April 22, 1919.

In accordance with the call of the Meeting the recommendation of the Executive Committee, April 9, 1919, relative to the union of the Foreign Mission Work of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States was considered, and after thorough discussion was unanimously approved in the following modified form:

VOTED:

(1) That the general plan of unifying the administration of the Foreign Missionary Work of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States, as set forth in the original Memorandum on the subject and the Modifications proposed by the Special Committee appointed by the Executive Committee, February 20, 1919, be approved,

(2) Provided:

- (a) That the integrity of the Denomination be not impaired.
- (b) That the personal relationship between Missionaries and individual Churches be continued.
- (c) That the utmost care be exercised in the selection and appointment of Missionaries with a view to maintaining the definitely Scriptural character of the Missionary's message.

(3) That the President appoint a Special Committee, of which he shall be a member, to present these Resolutions to General Synod at its forthcoming Meeting in June, 1919.

By the Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in the United States.

"Resolved that the Board approve of the Proposed plan of the union of the Foreign Mission work of all the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States, and that a Committee of five be appointed to confer with similar committees of other Boards to still further consider this plan. The Committee consists of the President, Secretary, Dr. Charles K. Creitz, John W. Apple, Esq. and Dr. William K. Lampe."

By the Board of Foreign Missions of the United Presbyterian Church of North America.

"That we approve of close cooperation in the carrying on of the mission activities of the Foreign Boards of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the U.S.

We recommend that a central agency be created with powers clearly defined to carry these federated activities into effect.

That the President appoint a committee of three, of which he shall be one to present this matter to the committees representing the other boards concerned

It is understood that the above action is subject to the approval of the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church."

All these actions of these five Boards were taken unanimously.

IV

The actions of the Boards were reported to the Assemblies and Synods at

their meetings in the spring of 1919 and action was taken as follows:

By the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

"That the approval of the Assembly be given to the effort to unite in one Joint Board of Foreign Missions, the Foreign Mission Agencies of the Assemblies and Synods of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States; and that it authorize its own Board of Foreign Missions to proceed with the negotiations for such union and, in accordance with the plan which has been submitted to the Standing Committee on Foreign Missions, to enter into the fullest measure of cooperation or of legal and organic union with as many of the Foreign Mission Agencies of the Reformed and Presbyterian Churches as may be possible, providing that in the consummation of this plan, ample conference shall be had with the missionary force of our Church." *****

"That with regard to the fields in China and India, the Assembly further expresses its satisfaction and joy in the progress which the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in China and India, in these establishments as independent Churches this Assembly has happily shared, have made toward a larger realization of Christian unity, both through the establishment of effective and autonomous church organizations with Synods and National Assemblies, and in preparing the way for complete union with other Christian bodies, notably the Congregational churches founded by the British and American Congregational Missions, and the Welsh Calvinistic Methodist churches."****

"That the Assembly notes with profound gratitude the continued prosperity of the work in India, and approves of the efforts being made by the Presbyterian Church in India to promote the largest measure of unity."***

"That the Board of Foreign Missions be bidden unhesitatingly to go forward; that it be encouraged and instructed to carry onward in every possible way the movement of Christian cooperation and unity, which past Assemblies have so clearly endorsed, and which the conditions of the present have made even more urgent."****

By the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States.

"While rejoicing in the full and hearty cooperation and Fellowship already existing among the Foreign Mission Boards, and Committees of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States, and trusting that they may become closer still, the Assembly does not see its way clear to consent to the complete unification of these bodies suggested by our Executive Committee."

In taking this action the General Assembly of the Southern Presbyterian Church,

it is believed, did not mean to express disapproval of the plan or unwillingness to join in it, *whenever any arrangement could be made under which there would be a proper supervisory agency over the proposed consolidated Board.* Our understanding is that it simply felt that it would be wiser to defer action, ~~on this point~~, in view of the renewed conference which the Assembly authorized with

the Northern Presbyterian Church on the subject of union, this conference to be free to consider the question of organic union between the two churches.

The General Synod of the Reformed Church in America.

1. This Synod approves the proposal to create a Central Board to administer the Foreign Missions Work of the Reformed- Presbyterian Family of Churches in the United States.

2. It empowers its Board of Foreign Missions to enter into negotiations with the constituted Boards of these Sister Churches in accordance with the proposed plan submitted to this Synod.

3. It authorizes its Board to fully cooperate with the boards of the other Churches to consummate the creation of one Central Board of Foreign Missions, provided:

- (a) That the integrity of the Denomination be not impaired.
- (b) That the personal relationship between missionaries and individual Churches be continued.
- (c) That the utmost care be exercised in the selection and appointment of missionaries with a view to maintaining the definitely Scriptural character of the Missionary's message.
- (d) That in the consummation of this plan full conference be had with the missionary force of our Church.

By the Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States.

(Because of Dr. Bartholomew's illness the plan was not presented to the Synod)

By the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church.

"That in view of the advantages and economies to be gained through cooperation along certain lines of the Foreign Boards of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in America; and in view of the fact that already certain tentative arrangements to these agencies have been worked out by our Board, we recommend -

- (a) That the General Assembly approve the principle of cooperation involved.
- (b) That it instruct the Board of Foreign Missions to proceed with the development of the plan.
- (c) That if the central organization can be effected according to agreeable conditions, the Board be authorized to elect from among its members its proportionate share of the members of the new agency."

7

In view of these actions of the Church courts, representatives of the Committees which the Boards had appointed to act for them in conferences on the subject met in New York City on July 11, 1919. It was clear to all that further preparatory steps were necessary before we should be ready for that measure of common and united action, to which we venture to believe that God is leading us, it was

voted accordingly -

1. To suggest to the Boards the advisability of their holding several joint Board meetings during the coming fall and winter in which they could consider their common missionary problems and interests.

2. To suggest to the Executive officers of the Boards that they should meet in conference prior to these Board meetings.

3. To prepare and send to the missionaries of the five churches this historical statement and to request them to send to their respective Boards any suggestions which individually or as missions they might be able to make with regard to the increase of the efficiency and the unity of the Foreign Mission Work of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches.

4. To recommend to the Five Boards for their consideration the unanimous judgment of those who were present at this meeting of July 11th, that the entire Foreign Missionary Work of the Churches should be brought together in ^{some closer} ~~the united~~ form of *cooperation & unity than they are working under at present.* Board and that this Board should be composed jointly of men and women.

We are deeply impressed by the fact that in all our Mission fields the churches which have resulted from our work are united. This unity of the churches abroad is so unifying our missionary interests and responsibilities as to encourage the belief that we are doing right in seeking to achieve this larger unity at home. We rejoice in the deepening fellowship and unity characteristic of our churches and Church courts in America, and the actions which have been taken and which are reported in this communication confirm us in the faith that the Divine Spirit is leading us forward. Let us join our counsels and prayers to the end that we may not err or falter in following this guidance.

Very faithfully yours,

W. B. Anderson
William I. Chamberlain
Allan R. Bartholomew
S. H. Chester
Robert H. Spear.

W. B. Anderson

W. B. ANDERSON
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
MILLS J. TAYLOR
ASSOCIATE SECRETARY
MISS ANNA A. MILLIGAN
EDUCATIONAL SECRETARY
ROBERT L. LATIMER, ESQ.
TREASURER
24 NORTH FRONT STREET

The Board of Foreign Missions
of the
United Presbyterian Church of North America
200 North Fifteenth Street
Philadelphia, Pa.

Mission Fields:
EGYPT—1854
INDIA—1855
THE SUDAN—1900
Cable Address:
EVANGELISM. PHILADELPHIA

RECEIVED

JUL 29 1919

Mr. Speer

July 28, 1919.

My dear Mr. Speer:

I am enclosing the draft of the historical statement regarding the development of the plan to unite the Boards of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches.

I am sorry not to have been present at the meeting of representatives. I am sure the plans made to hold joint meetings of the Boards is an excellent one and hope our Board will wish to participate.

For the sake of clearness in what I shall write to our missionaries I hope you may see well to insert the names of representatives or of represented Boards as I have noted on page #6.

I regret the statement of the action taken (item #4) as I shall have to explain to our Board and to our missionaries that we did not have a representative voting when this unanimous action was taken. I feel assured that our Board will not now reconsider its conclusion with reference to union of the boards, while I believe it is ready to go forward with a large measure of vitally federated activities.

As I have stated to you previously I do not think that the other Boards should hold back from union if it can be consummated, but if it cannot I am hoping the broadest and firmest foundations possible may be laid for cooperation.

I should not wish to send out this statement and a covering letter to our missionaries until it had been reviewed by our Board at its September meeting. This letter would necessarily embody the sentiment of our Board, and not my own personal sentiment.

Hoping that the greatest possible advance may be made in this great movement, I am

Yours very sincerely,

W. B. Anderson

Mr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, N. Y.

A-G
enc.

STATEMENT TO THE

Foreign Missionaries of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.				
"	"	"	"	Presbyterian Church in the U.S.
"	"	"	"	Reformed Church in America
"	"	"	"	Reformed Church in the United States
"	"	"	"	United Presbyterian Church.

Dear Friends:-

I

The Council of the Reformed churches in America holding the Presbyterian system at its meeting in Philadelphia, March 19th and 20th, 1918, adopted a plan of federal union consisting of a preamble, a Basis of Union and Articles of Agreement. The fifth of these articles of Agreement provided for the united administration of the foreign missionary work of these churches as follows:

"The General Council (of the Presbyterian Church in America) shall have power to promote the cooperation of the constituent churches in their Foreign Missionary work, and also in their general work in the United States of America, so far as denominationally organized, in connection with Home Missions, Evangelism, Work among the Colored People, Church Erection, Sabbath-schools, Publications, Education, Ministerial Relief and Comity, and shall exercise this power in the establishing and appointing of administrative agencies to maintain and conduct the work representative of any one or more of the causes mentioned, as consented to by the several supreme judicatories concerned.

This plan of union with its Preamble, Basis and Articles of Agreement was adopted by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. on May 23, 1918 by the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church on *May 28, 1918* and by the Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States on

A meeting of representatives of the foreign mission agencies of the Presbyterian and Reformed churches was held in Atlantic City on to consider what these agencies could do in the way of mutual helpful cooperation pending any further steps that might be taken looking toward the union of their work.

11.

On December 17, 1918, when representatives of the various home and foreign mission agencies were in New York attending the conference called to consider a united missionary campaign of all the missionary and educational agencies of all the evangelical churches at the invitation of the Executive Committee of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S., through its Chairman, the Rev. James I. Vance, D.D., a small meeting was held at which members or executive officers of the following organizations were present:

The Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.
The Executive Committee of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.
The Board of Foreign Missions of the United Presbyterian Church.
The Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in the U.S.
The Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in America.

At this meeting one of the Secretaries of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., presented a paper entitled "A Memorandum with regard to the Union of the Foreign Mission Work of all the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States." This contained a proposal which none of the above agencies had considered but was laid before the meeting for its free discussion. After full conference together it was unanimously agreed that it was desirable to seek to accomplish a unification of the administration of the work of the Boards of Foreign Missions of the five bodies represented. A Special Committee was appointed to receive suggestions regarding the paper presented and to revise the draft in the light of these suggestions.

Upon receiving suggestions these were incorporated and a revised Memorandum presented to the representatives of the Presbyterian and Reformed Boards who were at the Annual Conference of the Foreign Mission Boards of the United States and Canada in January 1919. At this meeting, at which about fifty were present including a number of Missionaries, there was a very full and harmonious discussion of the proposal, and those who were present found themselves in full agreement with the view that the contemplated consolidation of the Foreign Mission Boards of this group of Churches was most desirable if it could be accomplished. The Missionaries at home from the field

on Furlough were especially earnest in their approval. Further suggestions as to the form of the Memorandum were made and incorporated.

This Memorandum, as it appears below, was then submitted to the various Boards, with the request that they give it full consideration and approval. If it commended itself to their judgment, with a further request that each agency appoint a Committee to confer with similar Committees from the other agencies in carrying the matter forward. The hope was also expressed that this great problem might be faced without rashness or presumption on the one hand, and yet with courage and trust.

Memorandum With Regard to the Union of the Foreign Mission Work
of all the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in
the United States.

(The full memorandum to be inserted in the letter)

III.

This Memorandum was presented to the five missionary agencies mentioned and actions were taken by these agencies as follows:

By the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

"The Memorandum regarding the Union of the Boards and Committees of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States which had been made the order of the day, (and which is filed herewith as paper "A") was taken up for consideration, and it was voted heartily to approve the proposal to unite these Boards and Committees, and a Committee was appointed consisting of the president of the Board, as Chairman, Mr. Speers and Mr. Speer, with power to add two additional names to their number, to confer with committees from the other Boards which might be willing to consider the definite plan of union embodied in the Memorandum, this committee to confer also with representatives of the Women's Foreign Missionary Boards of the Presbyterian Church with regard to the relation of the Women's work of the various Presbyterian and Reformed Churches, and especially of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. to the proposed union. The Board felt full assurance in taking this position in view of repeated actions of the General Assembly, and especially its adoption at its last meeting in Columbus of the plan of federal union of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches which included provision for the establishment and appointment of an administrative agency to maintain and conduct the work of Foreign Missions in behalf of all the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches which might unite in the undertaking. At the same time, it is clearly understood that any action involving the union of the agencies proposed is subject to the review and judgment of the General Assembly."

By the Executive Committee of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

"Your Committee has carefully considered the matter referred to it and would recommend that the Executive Committee of Foreign Missions approve the general plan of uniting the Presbyterian and Reformed Foreign Mission work

as proposed, and refer the matter to the General Assembly for advice."

By the Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in America.

Action of the Executive Committee, April 9, 1919

The Executive Committee, having carefully considered, at a Special Meeting called for the purpose (February 20, 1919) a Memorandum with regard to the Union of the Foreign Mission Work of all the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States, and having noted the report of the conferences of the Corresponding Secretary with representative groups of Ministers in the various Synods of the Church, which revealed their favorable attitude, took unanimous action:

This action with slight alterations was adopted by the full Board and appears in its Minutes as follows:

Action of the Board- Special Meeting, April 22, 1919.

In accordance with the call of the Meeting the recommendation of the Executive Committee, April 9, 1919, relative to the union of the Foreign Mission Work of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States was considered, and after thorough discussion was unanimously approved in the following modified form:

VOTED:

(1) That the general plan of unifying the administration of the Foreign Missionary Work of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States, as set forth in the original Memorandum on the subject and the Modifications proposed by the Special Committee appointed by the Executive Committee, February 20, 1919, be approved.

(2) Provided:

- (a) That the integrity of the Denomination be not impaired.
- (b) That the personal relationship between Missionaries and individual Churches be continued.
- (c) That the utmost care be exercised in the selection and appointment of Missionaries with a view to maintaining the definitely Scriptural character of the Missionary's message.

(3) That the President appoint a Special Committee, of which he shall be a member, to present these Resolutions to General Synod at its forthcoming Meeting in June, 1919.

By the Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in the United States.

"Resolved that the Board approve of the Proposed plan of the union of the Foreign Mission work of all the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States, and that a Committee of five be appointed to confer with similar committees of other Boards to still further consider this plan. The Committee consists of the President, Secretary, Dr. Charles E. Greits, John W. Apple, Esq. and Dr. William E. Lampe."

By the Board of Foreign Missions of the United Presbyterian Church of North America.

"That we approve of close cooperation in the carrying on of the mission activities of the Foreign Boards of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the U.S.

We recommend that a central agency be created with powers clearly defined to carry these federated activities into effect.

That the President appoint a committee of three, of which he shall be one to present this matter to the committees representing the other boards concerned

It is understood that the above action is subject to the approval of the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church."

All these actions of these five Boards were taken unanimously.

IV

The actions of the Boards were reported to the Assemblies and Synods at

their meetings in the spring of 1919 and action was taken as follows:

By the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

"That the approval of the Assembly be given to the effort to unite in one joint Board of Foreign Missions, the Foreign Mission Agencies of the Assemblies and Synods of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States; and that it authorize its own Board of Foreign Missions to proceed with the negotiations for such union and, in accordance with the plan which has been submitted to the Standing Committee on Foreign Missions, to enter into the fullest measure of cooperation or of legal and organic union with as many of the Foreign Mission Agencies of the Reformed and Presbyterian Churches as may be possible, providing that in the consummation of this plan, ample conference shall be had with the missionary force of our Church." *****

"That with regard to the fields in China and India, the Assembly further expresses its satisfaction and joy in the progress which the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in China and India, in whose establishment as independent Churches this Assembly has happily shared, have made toward a larger realization of Christian unity, both through the establishment of effective and autonomous church organizations with Synods and National Assemblies, and in preparing the way for complete union with other Christian bodies, notably the Congregational churches founded by the British and American Congregational Missions, and the Welsh Calvinistic Methodist churches."****

"That the Assembly notes with profound gratitude the continued prosperity of the work in India, and approves of the efforts being made by the Presbyterian Church in India to promote the largest measure of unity."***

"That the Board of Foreign Missions be bidden unhesitatingly to go forward; that it be encouraged and instructed to carry onward in every possible way the movement of Christian cooperation and unity, which past Assemblies have so clearly endorsed, and which the conditions of the present have made even more urgent."***

By the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States.

"While rejoicing in the full and hearty cooperation and fellowship already existing among the Foreign Mission Boards, and Committees of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States, and trusting that they may become closer still, the Assembly does not see its way clear to consent to the complete unification of these bodies suggested by our Executive Committee."

In taking this action the General Assembly of the Southern Presbyterian Church, it is believed, did not mean to express disapproval of the plan or unwillingness to join in it. Our understanding is that it simply felt that it would be wiser to defer action for a year, in view of the renewed conference which the Assembly authorized with the Northern Presbyterian Church on the subject of union, this conference to be free to consider the question of organic union between the two churches.

The General Synod of the Reformed Church in America.

1. This Synod approves the proposal to create a Central Board to administer the Foreign Missionary Work of the Reformed-Presbyterian Family of Churches in the United States.

2. It empowers its Board of Foreign Missions to enter into negotiations with the constituted Boards of these Sister Churches in accordance with the proposed plan submitted to this Synod.

3. It authorizes its Board to fully cooperate with the boards of the other Churches to consummate the creation of one Central Board of Foreign Missions, provided:

- (a) That the integrity of the Denomination be not impaired.
- (b) That the personal relationship between Missionaries and individual Churches be continued.
- (c) That the utmost care be exercised in the selection and appointment of Missionaries with a view to maintaining the definitely Scriptural character of the Missionary's message.
- (d) That in the consummation of this plan full conference be had with the missionary force of our Church.

By the Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States.

(Because of Dr. Bartholomew's illness the plan was not presented to the Synod)

By the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church.

"That in view of the advantages and economies to be gained through cooperation along certain lines of the Foreign Boards of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in America; and in view of the fact that already certain tentative arrangements to these agencies have been worked out by our Board, we recommend -

- (a) That the General Assembly approve the principle of cooperation involved.
- (b) That it instruct the Board of Foreign Missions to proceed with the development of the plan.
- (c) That if the central organization can be effected according to agreeable conditions, the Board be authorized to elect from among its members its proportionate share of the members of the new agency."

V

In view of these actions of the Church courts, representatives of the

Committees which the Boards had appointed to act for them in conferences on the

subject met in New York City on July 11, 1919. It was clear to all that further

preparatory steps were necessary before we should be ready for that measure of common

and united action, to which we venture to believe that God is leading us, it was

Insert members of representative or all levels of Boards represented.

voted accordingly -

1. To suggest to the Boards the advisability of their holding several joint Board meetings during the coming fall and winter in which they could consider their common missionary problems and interests.

2. To suggest to the Executive officers of the Boards that they should meet in conference prior to these Board meetings.

3. To prepare and send to the missionaries of the five churches this historical statement and to request them to send to their respective Boards any suggestions which individually or as missions they might be able to make with regard to the increase of the efficiency and the unity of the Foreign Mission Work of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches.

4. To recommend to the Five Boards for their consideration the unanimous judgment of those who were present at this meeting of July 11th, that the entire Foreign Missionary Work of the Churches should be brought together in the united Board and that this Board should be composed jointly of men and women.

We are deeply impressed by the fact that in all our Mission fields the churches which have resulted from our work ^{with one exception} are united. This unity of the churches abroad is so unifying our missionary interests and responsibilities as to encourage the belief that we are doing right in seeking to achieve this larger unity at home. We rejoice in the deepening fellowship and unity characteristic of our churches and Church courts in America, and the actions which have been taken and which are reported in this communication confirm us in the faith that the Divine Spirit is leading us forward. Let us join our counsels and prayers to the end that we may not err or falter in following this guidance.

Very faithfully yours,

W. B. Anderson
William I. Chamberlain
Allen E. Bartholomew
S. H. Chester
Robert E. Speer.

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA
25 EAST 22ND STREET
NEW YORK

REV. WM. I. CHAMBERLAIN, PH. D.,
FOREIGN SECRETARY

F. M. POTTER,
ASSOCIATE SECRETARY

REV. WILLIAM J. VAN KERSEN,
DISTRICT SECRETARY
HOLLAND, MICH.

CABLE ADDRESS: SYNODICAL, NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: GRAMERCY 1593

REV. HENRY E. COBB, D. D.,
PRESIDENT.

REV. T. H. MACKENZIE, D. D.,
CHAIRMAN, EXEC. COMM.

HOWELL S. BENNET,
TREASURER

RECEIVED

JUL 31 1919

Mr. Potter

July 29, 1919.

Doctor Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Doctor Speer,

Enclosed you will find the minutes
of the meeting of the Joint Committee of the
Foreign Mission Boards of the Presbyterian and
Reformed Churches, held on July 11, 1919.

I trust that you will pardon the
delay in having these copies sent to you as we
are at present very short-handed in the office
because of the vacation season.

Yours sincerely,

F. M. Potter

FMP:VE

Arthur J. Brown

REC

JAN 16

Mr. Speer

AJB:M

January 12, 1920.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
Building.

Dear Robert:-

Please note that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Colombia Mission include the following action on Page 9:-

" In regard to the union Boards we approve of the principle and express sympathetic interest in the matter."

Affectionately yours,

Arthur

COPY.

Nov. 8, 1919.

Rev. John A. Marquis, D.D.,
156- 5th Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Marquis:-

Our Synods are now appointing their representatives on the Ad Interim Committee, which is to consider and report next Spring on the subject of closer relations. I am going to take the liberty of calling your attention once more to a consideration in this matter, which I think I mentioned in our last personal interview.

There has been no time in the past 25 years when I would not have voted for straight-out organic union as an abstract proposition. On the other hand, there has been no time in this 25 years when there has not been a large element in the Southern Church which is so opposed to straight-out organic union that it would probably refuse to go into it at all and would set up a separate church, thus perpetuating in a very undesirable way what is now called the Southern Presbyterian Church. Our most advanced men, like Dr. Vance, who, like myself, believes in straight organic union as an abstract proposition, recognize this as an insuperable difficulty. For this reason, it is my firm conviction that organic union, without some preliminary steps leading up to it, will not be found within the range of possibility any time within the near future.

Such being the case, as I see it, my next choice as a solution of the present situation is the Federal Union plan which was proposed last year, or something similar to that. As I said to you in our last conversation, I feel sure that if this plan had been adopted by the two Assemblies our Assembly would at once have agreed to the proposed merger of the Foreign Missionary work of our churches and any other Presbyterian Churches that might come in to the Federal Union under one consolidated Board. This would be practically organic union in Foreign Missions. That seems to me to be better than not to have organic union at all. Then, my belief is that within two or three years at most we could give such a demonstration and object lesson of the advantages of organic union in Foreign Missions and of the absence of the kind of difficult complications that some have prophesied in such an arrangement if it should be made, as would have convinced a great many people now opposed to organic union in the abstract that their fears of what would happen under such organic union are groundless, and the irreconcilable minority would be reduced to such small proportions that it might be left out of consideration in arranging our church policy for the future.

In other words, it is my judgment that not only the shortest

2.

road, but the only road, to full organic union in the near future is by way of the Federal Union Plan.

You need not take the trouble to reply to this unless you feel so inclined, but we may have conversation about it when I come to New York in January to the meeting of the Annual Conference and some other meetings that are being planned.

With very best wishes, I remain

Your friend and brother,

Signed: S. H. Chester,

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES

216 UNION STREET

P. O. BOX 158

S. H. CHESTER,
SECRETARY OF FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE

NASHVILLE, TENN. November 17, 1919.

Dr. Robt. E. Speer,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Speer,--

I regret that illness since our last Committee meeting has prevented me from notifying you immediately after the meeting of the action taken in regard to sending out the "Statement" to our missionaries on the field. I send you enclosed a copy of the letter accompanying the Statement. Our sub-committee recognized the fact that it was necessary for us to be very circumspect in the way we handled the matter in order to avoid any appearance of taking things for granted or of committing the Church in any way in advance as to what would finally be done.

I regret to inform you that we received a cablegram the other day saying that the Industrial School project in Northern Brazil had been abandoned. We had received letters indicating that the Catholic Clergy had carried on a very active propaganda against the enterprise and had succeeded in making very considerable impression upon the Government Officials. The final outcome is that they brought about a state of affairs that seems to make our undertaking the work there impracticable at the present time.

Dr. Robt. E. Speer-2.
November 17, 1919.

I hope we may be able to have the kind of Joint Conference at some time during or immediately preceding, or immediately succeeding the meeting of the Annual Conference to talk over matters connected with the proposed closer federation of the Foreign Missionary Work. I am going to send you a copy of a letter I wrote Dr. Marquis on the subject of closer cooperation and federation, which expresses a view that I think I mentioned to you at some of our conferences on the subject.

Cordially and fraternally yours,

Encs.

Secretary.

Letter to Dr. Marquis : will follow.

Arthur J. Brown

AJB:M

RECEIVED

February 10, 1920.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
Building.

Mr. Speer

Dear Robert:-

Please note the following action of the Chosen Mission regarding the proposed union of Presbyterian and Reformed Boards:

"In response to the request from the Board for an expression of opinion from the Mission regarding the proposed union of Foreign Mission Boards of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in America, we would reply that we are in full sympathy with the general purpose of the contemplated union and recognize that it would promote unity economy and efficiency.

We would however call attention to the following considerations:

(A) We agree with the position believed to be taken by the Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States to the effect that no union board should be established until a Union Assembly or Council of Assemblies has been formed capable of properly supervising the work of the proposed union Mission Board.

(B) We have felt in the past that a clearer definition of the relations of the Boards and the Missions is necessary and it is our conviction that the erection of the proposed Mission Board would make still more imperative a clear definition of these relations and the giving of a larger and more definite control to the Mission in field matters.

Affirm. (unqualified) 50, Without paragraph A.&B. 5 more. Neg. 4. Not voting 10. Passed.

V.287. We recommend that our delegates to the Post-War Conference be requested to present more fully to the Board the questions involved in the above suggestions.

Affirm. 52. Neg. 1, N.V 16. Passed."

Affectionately yours,

Arthur

Harvey Brokaw

The Japan Mission

of the

Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

Secretary.

Iehijo, Muro Machi Nishi,

Kyoto, Japan,

April 5th, 1920.

Handwritten circle containing the name "Winn" and the number "15".

Mr. Robert E. Speer, D.D.,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City, U.S.A.,

My Dear Dr. Speer:

The two resolutions below have now become official Mission actions:

(62) The following sums from the surplus of Yen 1446.41, which includes the Yen 400 set apart but not used for evangelists' pensions, were voted:

- 1. For deficit in Kanazawa Girls' School and Kindergarten.....Yen 220.00
- 2. For deficit in Treasurer's appropria.. " 594.63
- 3. " amount previously voted to Myojo.. " 200.00
- 4. " repairs on Tsu property..... " 372.00
- 5. " painting fund, Sturges Seminary... " 59.78
- Total..... " 1446.41

The surplus became available because the \$5000 was voted from sales of Osaka property. It was available largely from Hiroshima Station, from Chosen and Manchuria. Since Mr. and Mrs. Hereford were on furlough, since little could be done this year in Chosen, these ~~xxxx~~ Stations had large surpluses. The deficit in Kanazawa was caused by falling off of tuitions due to the influenza epidemic, and because the kindergarten started with a large deficit on April 1st, 1920. Moving expenses, increased taxes for the Shadan, etc., account for the Treasurer's deficit. The Myojo is the little paper that goes to students, and the amount was voted to enable the society to end the year without debt. The Christian Literature Society has now taken over that work. Tsu's plight, as you already know, was due to the fact that the Station has not had what Mr. Hannaford calls a balanced budget--that is, all the funds were put into rents and workers' salaries, and property was allowed to run down. A previous Yen 650, transferred from Fukui and Chosen, covered the cost of a chimney. The sum voted above is largely ~~xxxx~~ for fences, which had fallen down this Spring unexpectedly. Dr. Winn desired that the Manchuria surplus go to Sturges, which badly needs paint, and which has had to use its reserve paint fund for running expenses. But the Executive Committee could grant only the remainder, as the other claims seemed first.

(61) The Secretary was instructed to send a resume of the opinions of the members of the Mission to the Board as a reply on the question of the merger of the Boards and Missions of Presbyterian and Reformed faith and polity.

These opinions of the Mission were obtained by a questionnaire. In your letter of Jan. 15th, 1920, you asked the opinion of the Mission. The Executive Committee did not seem to have any mandate on the subject. So it instructed me to get the opinions of the Mission. When the Executive Committee saw those opinions, they thought that they had better go just that way as the reply of this Mission. It has seemed best to omit all names. The resume is as follows:

"Question: Shall we inform the Board that we favor the mergers in principle, but desire to be allowed to express our final opinions, when the details are worked out?"

"Replies: Unqualifiedly favoring the merger, twelve with-our comment. Others comment as follows:

".....Because while it may require some very delicate adjustments, it will result in an economy of force and efficiency of administration.

".....I am in favor of mergers as a principle. Very much in favor. But I do not see how we can say much more to the Board than your question indicates, since the initiative must come from the Boards. At any rate, the merger must be made there. I do not fear the working out of the organization on the field, tho I can readily understand that it will be a big job and take lots of grey matter.

"We favor organic union of Presbyterian and Reformed Boards and Missions, if there is no large union possible. While we are at it, why not at least make the attempt to make a larger union with other Boards and Missions as well?"

"I think it is a step in the right direction, in accordance with modern tendencies. It will prevent overlapping of forces, unify policies, contribute to efficiency and permit financial matters to be more efficiently administered. In practical details, there are tremendous and very difficult problems and all Missions concerned should be very carefully consulted before the final plans are worked out."

"Favoring with qualifications:

"Yes, but there are many lions in the way, and it is very hard to say just what is best.

"Am in favor of merging the Boards--for the sake of economy, for the sake of union. The fatal objection, or rather the serious objection, to it is the question of cooperation on the field with the Japanese. If that could be provided for, most heartily favor mergers.

"Approve in principle, but reserve final opinions until details are worked out, as there seems to be a variety of ideas as to the practical application of such a merger. (Signed by two persons).

"Yes, if it does not contemplate radical changes in long established work. (This is almost equivalent to No. H.B.)

"In favor, if it does not interfere with cooperation.

"In theory it appeals to me, and I have no doubt there will be advantages, if it works out happily. But I would rather see it begin a step farther back, in the union of the churches. Until that is accomplished, I am hesitant as to the real success of the merger of the Boards. A number of practical difficulties will arise, if the Boards' merger involves the union of Missions in Japan. As matters are at present, there is such a wide difference in view-point and policy between the Presbyterian and Reformed Missions in Japan that anything like real unity and harmony would be very difficult to obtain; and furthermore the large body resulting would be very unweildy. If the Boards are merged, the best interests of the work here would be promoted by keeping the Missions distinct and apart for the present.

"The principle of united effort is good, but we must guard against having a too unweildy and cumbersome machine. Perhaps it would be wiser to retain our individuality as Missions and have something of the kind of Council they have in China.

The Japan Mission

of the

Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

Secretary.

Dr. R. E. Speer, #3.

"Favor wording of Secretary. Union projects sound well, though in the working out there is often much disunion.

"I hesitate to express an opinion on the proposed merger without hearing or reading more about it. I am inclined to doubt the wisdom of having anything more unwieldy than we have now for the home staff to attend to. Missions are not any too well administered now. Also, there are great differences here between the Missions, hard to be reconciled. But I am not ready to dogmatize.

"In mere money economy, it might be an advantage. I would not look forward with joy to the merger of the Missions in Japan. I would not oppose it, if the Boards felt it desirable. I am not as keen for unions and big bodies, as I once was. 'God hath set the solitary in families,' and it has its decided advantages.

"I do not feel capable of giving an opinion on the proposed merger of the Missions, not knowing ~~the~~ about the matter of 'incompatibility' or its opposite. On general principles, I am in favor of union, and I hope that there are no local conditions here, which would make it inadvisable.

"Favor the mergers in principle, but do not know enough about it at present to express a final opinion. Anything that will get us closer together, and at the same time make for greater efficiency in the work of Christ is what we want, I believe. (Signed by two)

"In principle, I am in favor of union between churches and organizations that have similar confessions and governments. Until however a de facto merger of churches is accomplished, I am not at all in favor of merging "boards" or "agencies." If such a merger of 'boards' or 'agencies' is attempted, it seems to me that the organization would be very complicated, the expenses of administration very largely increased, without any greatly added efficiency.

"At first thought, the problems to be faced in bringing about a merger of the Reformed faith in Japan will nigh overwhelm us. But when we consider the ultimate good that is sure to come to the cause of Christ here by a more united front, by readjustments of methods and policies in keeping with the times, and by a wiser distribution of funds and forces, we can hardly not help but believe that a movement of this kind is a step forward and under the direction of God. It seems to me that all petty differences and practical problems will fade away in the larger and more lasting benefits that would accrue from a real union of this kind, born of the Spirit and prayer. I believe that four distinct missions with a common council, having such power as the missions may bestow upon it, might best serve our purpose here in Japan.

"Temporal and local difficulties should not weigh too much. The best thing for the Kingdom and the Church of Christ in Japan of the future should weigh most. I do not fear differences of personalities in the Missions, or of policy so much. Union of some kind would harmonize and make us brothers and sisters in Christ. A sectional system of three or four Missions, with a Council, would be best. If the merger is ordered, duly elected representatives of the present Missions, as now organized should sit around a table and work out plans for the future, so far as organization, schools, stations, etc., are concerned. Cooperation is the greatest difficulty. But duly elected representatives of the Church of Christ in Japan should meet with duly elected representatives of the Missions and work out some Plan of Cooperation. I think this last should be done in any case. The present differences divide the Church of Christ in Japan, and half throttle her progress and efficiency."

"Opposing the mergers:

"I feel rather dubious these days about large bodies holding as much of the real spirit of doing anything as smaller bodies do. The world has run amuck in many lines, because of empty, mechanical, efficient business from which the real heart has long since died out, or gone to sleep, or been covered up by detail. I rather think we will do better as smaller bodies.

"I am opposed to the merger, as I think the policies of our Missions in regard to Mission matters and the native church so different that working together in one Mission would be most difficult.

"The reasons for my (negative) votewill be found in what I believe would be the answer to the following questions: 1st. Has the union of the Missions in educational work in the past been so entirely satisfactory as to warrant hopes of greater usefulness in a more comprehensive and closer union involving all the work of the Missions? 2nd. From what we have heard of the methods and rules and regulations recently devised by the Dutch Reformed Mission for its governance, is it safe to conclude that a truly harmonious and frictionless union that shall control all the Mission and missionary interests of all the Missions is within the range of probability? I do not believe affirmative replies can be given to these questions. As to favoring a merger in principle even, without due consideration of the practice that must inevitably follow, well in my opinion, such a course carries too many risks.

"I agree with in all ... has said on card. I wish to give still another reason for not favoring the proposed merger. The union of the two (sic) Missions, neither of which is small, would make a combination so large that all work, institutional and personal, would be subject to the control of committees and sub-committees. I believe that this would not increase efficiency, but on the contrary would add irksome hindrances to missionary effort.

"I think very likely the greatest efficiency would be received by continuing the present system. A merger would involve a lot of scrap-heap and reconstruction, all of which is distracting and hardly worthwhile. We have mergers on the field, which secure sufficient efficiency, I believe. The Dutch Reformed people understand one another. So the Presbyterians North and South. I wonder whether a union mission school is not ~~that~~ in miniature what a merging of Boards would mean. Is there resultant efficiency and economy to justify the union? I do not feel able to give an opinion of deep conviction without further information." (Signed by two).

Summary:

Unqualifiedly favoring the mergers.....	16	persons;
Favoring with qualifications.....	17	"
Opposing the mergers.....	6	"

A number of wives have allowed their husbands to do the voting and making of statements. That leaves quite a number in the Mission who have not expressed an opinion. As a matter of fact, these are largely the younger members of the Mission. A few very modest ones of later years of service have kept quiet.

Sincerely,

Harvey Brokaw
Secretary

Regarding the formation of a United Board of Foreign Missions the Japan and China Missions of the Reformed Church of the United States have taken the following actions:

JAPAN MISSION

With reference to the proposed union of the Foreign Mission Boards of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A., the Presbyterian Church in the U.S., the Reformed Church in America, the Reformed Church in the U.S., and the United Presbyterian Church, it is the judgment of the Japan Mission of the Reformed Church in the U.S. that for the sake of

- (a) a more united front on the part of the home churches,
- (b) a larger vision and the stimulus of the backing of a vast Christian constituency, on the part of the missionary body, and
- (c) harmony with the God-inspired world-tendency toward greater unification of the Christian forces, the proposed union should be consummated.

However, the Mission while expressing this judgment, also feels in duty bound to state certain considerations:

1. The advantages of such a union pertain far more strongly to the Home Base than to considerations of convenience and efficiency on the foreign mission fields, at least the Japan Field, as is also implied by the fact that the ten reasons given in the Statement of the Boards have relation almost entirely to considerations pertaining to the Home Base.

2. The present policy of the different Missions in the Japan field working side by side without overlapping and without entanglement or friction and yet throwing all the results of their work into one native church, is a plan that it is difficult to improve on, at least so long as the home churches are not organically united.

3. The arrangement would seem to be disadvantageous to the foreign work of our Reformed Church as now constituted. Our Church now has the distinction of having as its mission field the two countries that are beyond comparison the most strategically important missionary countries of the world. In these the Church is now deeply interested and on them it is concentrating all its strength. The question arises whether the unification of the Boards would not scatter the interest and distribute the strength of the Church over all fields, which would almost certainly have the effect of levelling down what is now done for these two important fields. Even from the standpoint of world evangelization as a whole this would seem to be a loss.

4. From the standpoint of our Japan Mission the arrangement would seem to involve loss also. Our Mission, especially in North Japan, has an ideally compact and well-organized work. The work has the interest and confidence of our home Church which has been following a positive and progressive policy toward its work in Japan, while it may perhaps be said that the interest of others of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches has in recent decades in a measure been secondary to that of other fields. It is therefore not unlikely that under a union plan, especially the Tohoku work might not receive the proportion of support it now receives. The demands from the greater centers like Tokyo and Osaka might have the tendency to draw away from Tohoku the support which a proper development of the work now well begun requires.

5. Practically every great denomination with a national policy for Japan has neglected the work in the Tohoku. The predominating vote of a union Mission would be in the hands of missionaries working in the more thoroughly developed centers in the South. The Reformed Church in the U.S. and the missionaries of our

Japan Mission have made great sacrifices in establishing a settled policy of development in the Tohoku as outlined in our carefully prepared Survey; and provided the organization of a separate Tohoku Mission could be maintained and the continuance of the present policy as embodied in our Survey could be assured, we could more heartily endorse and probably see more clearly the great advantages to be derived from a closer union.

CHINA MISSION

YOCHOW STATION: RESOLVED: That the Yochow Station could approve of this proposed plan of union provided that the integrity of its educational policy adopted years ago by the Board and Reformed Church, be guaranteed.

In support of this resolution we present the following statements:-

The Reformed Church has always stood for higher education, it adopted and pursued this policy in Japan and adopted a similar one for China. We have organized our Schools and developed them with the aim of higher education under Christian influence for the young men and women of this part of China. We have organized our Schools with this aim in view, and we believe that we have attained to some degree of success, for in the Lakeside Schools the College graduates were all Christians and all but one are now engaged in Christian work, while in the Girls' School seven out of ten were Christians.

The enthusiasm with which the women of the Reformed Church have taken up the Girls' School and Womens' Work warrants us in believing that the Reformed Church is willing to develop these institutions in China.

It has been proposed that Lakeside be only a Middle School with the possibility of a Junior College for two years, and the Girls' School be limited to primary work only. All young men desiring higher education than the above would be expected to go to Yale, and women to the Union High School at Changsha, with the result that a large proportion of boys and girls would lose the opportunity of a higher education as they could not afford to go away.

This proposition demands that we abandon our plan for higher education under Christian influence. The Presbyterian Mission have committed themselves to the educational policy of one middle school for boys at Siangtan and the union one for girls at Changsha, and in event of a union they would expect us to adopt a similar one, which we consider unwise; that is, we would be expected to send advanced students from the Boys' Schools to Yale, an institution entirely outside the union.

This educational policy would mean that the young men and women would be sent away just at the formative period of their lives and the opportunity of making Christians of them would be lost to us.

It has been the experience of both Lakeside and the Girls' School that the greater majority of those who become confirmed Christians do so during the latter part of their course, for the most part, shortly before graduation. By limiting our Schools to primary and middle school work, such of our pupils as could afford to go away at all, would go to large institutions where non-Christians are in preponderance, and where the personal contact of teacher with pupils is much less. These pupils would most probably be lost to Christianity.

SHENCHOW STATION: RESOLVED: That our (Shenchow) Station vote its hearty approval of the plan for the union of the Foreign Mission Work of all the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the U.S.

Board of Foreign Missions
Reformed Church in the United States

REFORMED CHURCH BUILDING
FIFTEENTH AND RACE STREETS
PHILADELPHIA
REV. ALLEN R. BARTHOLOMEW, D. D.
SECRETARY

ALL MONIES FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS
SHOULD BE SENT TO THE SECRETARY

CABLE ADDRESS:
"ALLENBARTH" PHILADELPHIA
BELL PHONE

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

October 24,

1919

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS:
TO OUR MISSIONARIES IN JAPAN AND CHINA:

Dear Co-workers:

The inclosed Statement relative to a United Board of Foreign Missions is sent to you for your information, and also for any suggestions that you may feel free to send at your earliest convenience to the Board. You will observe that no final action has been taken by our Board, although we have approved of the Proposed Plan and appointed a Committee on Conference to still further consider the plan.

Action to make the Proposed Plan operative by our Board must first be taken by the General Synod.

Since the Proposed Plan will be laid before the General Synod at its meeting in Reading, next May, it is very important that the matter should receive the fullest consideration by all the members of the Board and by all our missionaries in Japan and China. I would also suggest that our Missions take action showing the mind of the members on this new plan for the administration of our foreign missionary work at home and abroad.

Let us all pray the Lord for that wisdom which upbraideth not, and for that spirit of charity which seeketh not her own, but everyone another's good.

Thanking you in advance for writing to me fully and freely regarding this far-reaching proposition, and wishing you all joy in the Lord, I remain, with kindest regards,

Very cordially yours,

Allen R. Bartholomew

Secretary.

THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PRINCETON, N.J.

PRESIDENT'S ROOM

April 12, 1920.

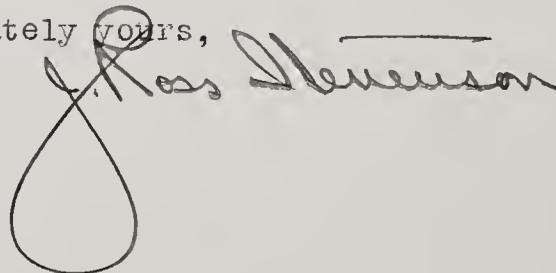
My dear Robert:-

In response to your inquiry of April 9th, it gives me pleasure to enclose the Minutes of the Reformed Church Council which embody the plan of Federal Union, to which I referred at our last Board meeting. On page 30 you will note what the plan is and the cooperation in foreign missionary work that is involved. The 5th and 11th Articles of Agreement affect the work of our Board. If you will turn to the Minutes of the last Assembly, page 179, you will note that an enabling act was adopted whereby our Board is authorized to join in the Constitution of a united Board or agency for the conduct of missionary work.

It is a question whether two-thirds of the constituent bodies have actually adopted this form of union. The Dutch Reformed Church has adopted it, but with reservations as to its mission work. There is a small Associate Reformed Church in the South which is counted as a member of the Federal Council although it has not sent any representatives for ten years. If it does not regard itself a member of this Council, then the plan of union has been approved by the necessary number of cooperating bodies.

Hoping that this will give you the information desired, I am,

Affectionately yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. Ross Stevenson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "J. Ross Stevenson".

Dr. Robert E. Speer,

New York City.

S H Chester

RECEIVED
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES

156 FIFTH AVENUE, NORTH

P. O. BOX 330

S. H. CHESTER,
SECRETARY OF FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE

NASHVILLE, TENN.

May 31, 1920.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City,
Dear Brother:

I was very much disappointed on my return from the General Assembly Friday afternoon to find that John, after having been free of temperature for a week, was beginning to have another rise of temperature, probably due to an infection in the leg which may give serious trouble and require another operation.

Under these circumstances I do not feel free to leave home this week, and therefore cannot attend the meeting with reference to the Japan University on June 4th.

I brought this matter before our Committee at a meeting which we had at the General Assembly in Charlotte, at which there were two leading men of our Japan Mission present. As the result of their advice, the Committee decided that the way would not be open for us to participate in the University movement at the present time. The opinion of these missionaries was that whatever funds we might have for educational purposes in Japan would be more wisely expended in trying to develop a Boys' School which might ultimately attain the grade of a junior college.

I suppose you have seen the statement in the papers that our Assembly adopted without debate and without division the same re-

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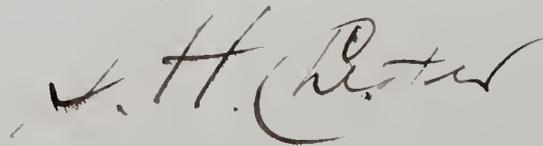
2-

port on Federal Union as that adopted by your Assembly. We appointed a Committee on Closer Relations, the majority of which, I think, will be sympathetic with the idea of some form of closer relations in our foreign work. I am placing in the hands of this committee thirty-seven replies which I have received from missionaries to whom I sent the proposed plan of union adopted last year, twenty-four of which were favorable, and thirteen unfavorable.

Of course I cannot tell what view will finally be taken of the matter by our Assembly next year.

The action of our Assembly on the Interchurch Movement was that we continue to cooperate for the present year, but are forbidden to appropriate any money for expenses. That is not a very enthusiastic kind of cooperation, to be sure. I hope the Movement will survive, however, and at least that its great ideal of the facing up to its entire task by the church may not have to be abandoned or indefinitely postponed.

Very cordially yours,



Rev. A. R. Bartholomew

Board of Foreign Missions
Reformed Church in the United States

REFORMED CHURCH BUILDING
FIFTEENTH AND RACE STREETS
PHILADELPHIA

REV. ALLEN R. BARTHOLOMEW, D. D.
SECRETARY

CABLE ADDRESS:
"ALLENBARTH" PHILADELPHIA
BELL PHONE

ALL MONIES FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS
SHOULD BE SENT TO THE SECRETARY

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

May 28, 1920

Dr. Robert E. Speer
156 Fifth Avenue
New York

My dear Dr. Speer:

At the meeting of our General Synod, held at Reading, Pa., May nineteenth to the twenty-sixth, the following action was adopted in regard to the United Board of Foreign Missions.

United Board of Foreign Missions.

General Synod commends its Board of Foreign Missions for co-operation in conferences looking toward the organization of a United Board of Foreign Missions to prosecute the Foreign missionary work of all the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States, and hereby puts itself on record:

1. As being in hearty accord with the General principles of Union involved in the proposed plan.
2. As recognizing the importance of conserving everything vital to us in our educational and evangelistic work in Japan and China.
3. As being of the conviction that the proposed plan of Union of the Boards be further studied, especially in view of the hope of organic Union between the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., and the Reformed Church in the U.S.

While this action does not go as far as some of us hoped, it will not prevent our Board from looking forward to closer co-operation.

I do not have time at this moment to write to you more fully.

Trusting this will find you well, I remain with kindest regards,

Very cordially yours,

Allen R. Bartholomew

Secretary.

ARB/AV

COPY.

1920

RESOLVED

1. That the report of the Committee appointed by the last General Assembly on Interchurch Organic Union be accepted and the Committee discharged.

2. That the amended plan of union of the Council of Reformed Churches in America Holding the Presbyterian System be approved with the following reservations; Art. (4) Sec. (d) concerning "powers to be delegated to the united Assembly;" namely, that the power to institute and superintend the agencies necessary to its general work of evangelization; Foreign Missions, Publication, Ministerial Relief, Schools and Colleges, Home Missions, Church Erection, Colored Work, Evangelism, Stewardship and such other causes" as may not be expressly delegated to the united Assembly, be retained by the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church.

(a) That the Assembly authorize the various Boards of the Church to appoint representatives to be present at the meeting of the Council during the coming year.

(b) That the General Assembly appoint eight members to represent the United Presbyterian Church in the Council for the next two years.

(c) That the General Assembly authorize a payment to the current expenses of the Council \$50. the amount apportioned annually to the United Presbyterian Church.

3. It is evident that the Council of Churches of Christ in America and the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America are mutually inclusive in intention, and, though now working together rather harmoniously, ultimately in conflict with each other, and can not long exist side by side; indeed it is the declared purpose of the Council of the Churches of Christ in America to displace the Federal Council. Each of these Councils is now in reality only a federal union of Churches, and each is capable constitutionally of development into a closer feueration and untimately, when ecclesiastical sentiment in America permits, into organic union. The Council of the Churches of Christ in America proposes at the present time a little frther advance toward real organic union, but has as yet not accomplished anything practical in the field of Christian activities; the Federal Council has made less progress toward organic union, but, through its many local organizations, has already accomplished much practically for Christian activities throughout the United States.

It is recommended:-

(a) That the United Presbyterian Church discontinue its relation with the Council of the Churches of Christ in America and continue its relations with the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, etc., etc.

REV. JAMES I. DODD, D. D., LL. D.
PRESIDENT

A. R. Bartholomew
Board of Foreign Missions
Reformed Church in the United States
REFORMED CHURCH BUILDING
FIFTEENTH AND RACE STREETS
PHILADELPHIA
REV. ALLEN R. BARTHOLOMEW, D. D.
SECRETARY

REV. ALBERT S. BROMER
TREASURER

ALL MONEYS FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS
SHOULD BE SENT TO THE SECRETARY

CABLE ADDRESS:
"ALLENBARTH" PHILADELPHIA
BELL PHONE

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

RECEIVED

JUL 7 1920

Mr. Speer

July 6, 1920

Dr. Robert E. Speer
156 Fifth Avenue
New York

My dear Dr. Speer:

Please pardon my delay in replying to your kind favor of June seventeenth. The sad news of the shooting and killing of our dear missionary, Rev. William A. Reimert, at Yochow City, China, and the many inquiries thereto, made it almost imperative for me to defer replies to a number of important communications, among them your welcome letter.

The action of our General Synod with reference to the proposed United Board of Foreign Missions was not based on the proposed Council of the Reformed Churches in America holding the Presbyterian system but as I understand it, on the overture from your General Assembly to our General Synod looking towards the organic union of these two denominations.

Personally I fear the Council Plan will be cumbersome and may not make the administrative machinery less costly or effective.

With all good wishes and kindest regards, I remain

Very cordially yours,

Allen R. Bartholomew

Secretary.

ARB/AV

U. P. Gen. assembly.

COPY.

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AJB/K

RECEIVED

April 21, 1920.

Mr. Robert E. Speer,
BUILDING.

Dear Robert:

Please note that the Philippine Mission in its annual meeting, October 1920, gives "hearty approval to the union of the Foreign Boards of the five Presbyterian and Reformed Churches".

Sincerely yours,

Arthur