



THE CONCERNED PRESBYTERIAN

Dedicated to Returning the Presbyterian Church U.S.
to its Primary Mission — Winning the Unsaved for
Christ and Nurturing all Believers in the Faith

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"The Only Infallible Rule
of Faith and Practice"

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MARCH, 1965

Why We Are "Concerned"

*Laymen alarmed over secular
trends in Presbyterian Church U.S.*

Very few laymen are aware of the fact that over the last 15 years there has been a secret organization in our Church working quietly behind the scenes to gain control of the political machinery of our denomination. This group, composed mostly of ministers, called themselves the Fellowship of St. James.

This relatively small but very determined group influences and seeks to control the various agencies of the courts of our Church. In recent years they have succeeded in electing enough men of their choosing to enable them to control many of the important committees of the various Church courts and to have effective majorities on the governing bodies of many of the boards, agencies and other institutions of the Church.

To a greater degree than is generally realized, this group exercises considerable influence in the selection of ministers to fill the pulpits of many of our larger and more important churches.

Last year many of these men joined in a new "out-in-the-open" organization which they called "The Fellowship of Concern." Its professed purpose was to raise money to aid ministers who got into financial difficulties when their congregations refused to let them continue to promote social, political and racial views from their pulpits. Last fall Virginia members who probably comprise the largest segment of the membership of the group held a meeting and proposed that the Fellowship of Concern add the following planks to its platform:

1. Vigorous participation in the NCC and other ecumenical organizations.
2. Support of the critical view of the Bible.
3. Union with UPUSA Church before any other.

These objectives were not *formally* adopted by the Fellowship, but there is reason to believe that these *are* the goals toward which most of the members of the group are working. This group is well organized, highly articulate and zealous in the attainment of their goals.

We are convinced that the Fellowship of St. James and the Fellowship of Concern do not represent the thinking of the vast majority of the laymen and ministers in our Church. *The Presbyterian Outlook* — which for many years has been their mouthpiece — has a paid circulation of less than one-third the circulation of *The Presbyterian Journal* which through the years has represented the evangelical and conservative constituency in our denomination.

The men in these groups have gained control of the machinery of our Church because we conservatives have been largely content to *talk* about these matters without setting up an effective organization through which to make our voices heard in the Church courts. While we have been *talking* they have been doing.

The hour is already late. If we who deplore the

present trends remain silent and inactive much longer, we will never be able to change these trends that many feel are undermining the effectiveness of our Church.

This is the reason for Concerned Presbyterians, Inc. It is our avowed purpose to endeavor to return the control of our Church once more to those who believe that the Bible is the Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice, that unswerving loyalty to the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Catechisms is vital and essential to the work of our Church, and that leading the unsaved to Christ and nurturing believers in the Faith should take precedence even over every other proper activity in the Church's program.

We Are Concerned

- because the primary mission of the Church — winning people to Jesus Christ and nurturing them in the Faith — is being compromised today by over-emphasis on social, economic and political matters, forgetting the basic necessity for regeneration.
- because the integrity and authority of the Word of God are being questioned by dubious theories of revelation in some of the literature of the Church.
- because some presbyteries no longer require complete loyalty to the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Catechisms.
- because continued membership in the National Council of Churches involves us in activities, pronouncements and programs of which we strongly disapprove and repeated protests to that body have been ignored.
- because the plan to establish a Central Treasurer now approved by the General Assembly indicates a determination to regiment the benevolence giving of the Church's members by "equalizing" their gifts — in effect actually thwarting the wishes of many donors.
- because another determined effort has been started to effect a union of the Presbyterian Church U.S. with the United Presbyterian Church U.S.A. which is now engaged in negotiations to unite with denominations that do not adhere to the Reformed Faith.

We urge all who are concerned about these matters to pray daily that God will through His Holy Spirit guide and direct this movement which we sincerely believe is for His honor and glory.

This is NOT the Answer . . .

Concerned Presbyterians, Inc., does NOT recommend that anyone withdraw from our beloved Church. Our goal is to reverse the trends that are causing so many members to consider withdrawal. We should "stand fast and hold the traditions which ye have been taught" —

II Thess: 2:15.

Our Spiritual Objectives

Concerned Presbyterians take seriously the reports given year after year to the General Assembly concerning the failure of our denomination to be effective in evangelism. We do not want to see the first business of the Church placed low on the list of objectives but made the passion of all our congregations. Training in personal witnessing is needed in every particular church; we urge that classes for this purpose be organized all over the Assembly.

Keenly aware that effective presentation of the Lord Jesus Christ as the Saviour men must have if they are not to be eternally lost depends upon an unshakable confidence in the Bible as the very truth of God. We call the Church to realize that theories based upon so-called higher criticism of the Scriptures are essentially subjective and do not really come with full scholarly credit as is so often claimed. Every negative approach to the Bible has had its full and adequate answer from conservative scholarship. There is not the slightest reason for any of us to give ground at this point, but we may stand with implicit confidence upon the whole truthfulness of Scripture.

Concerned Presbyterians refuse to be alarmed at the numerous voices that would characterize the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Catechisms as the sterile voice of the 17th Century. We regard these noble creedal documents as the glorious fruit of deep and expert study of the Bible and as the best expression of Biblical teaching ever produced. We insist that men who are to take the vows of the Church Office in our denomination sincerely accept the system of doctrine set forth in the Westminster Standards. Personal integrity requires no less and denominational health cannot be maintained without this.

Concerned Presbyterians understand that organization, protest, controversy, necessary as these often are in the life of the denomination, cannot by themselves achieve revival. We remember that it was said by an Old Testament prophet and has been emphasized and re-emphasized in the New Testament that it is not by the might or power of man but by the working of the Spirit of God that His kingdom is preserved and advanced.

We rely therefore upon prayer and earnestly inter-

Our Officers - Trustees

The officers of Concerned Presbyterians, Inc. elected by the Board of Trustees in Atlanta, Georgia, February 9th are:

President Kenneth S. Keyes, Miami, Florida
 Vice President Col. Roy LeCraw, Atlanta, Georgia
 Secretary—W. J. (Jack) Williamson, Greenville, Ala.
 Treasurer J. M. Vroon, Miami, Florida

Trustees elected to date include:

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 W. J. (Jack) Williamson Greenville, Alabama
 H. S. Williford Jackson, Mississippi

cede and call our whole denomination to intercede for a new moving of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of our ministers and our members. We would in the midst of the years ask our God to remember mercy and to restore what the locust and the worm have eaten and to give wholeness and soundness and continued growth to our great Church.

Be "Concerned" — But Also Be Informed

Every "Concerned Presbyterian" should read the *Presbyterian Journal* — the weekly paper that has been the "voice" of the conservative and evangelical forces in the Presbyterian Church U.S. for more than 23 years. If you are not already reading this fine paper send \$3. to *Presbyterian Journal*, Weaverville, North Carolina, for a one-year subscription. If you are already a subscriber and want to make an excellent "investment" in the Lord's work, select 10 or more key people in your church — elders, deacons, Sunday School teachers, leaders in adult or youth work and send them a subscription (only \$2.50 in lots of 10 or more).

All Concerned Presbyterians who contribute \$10 or more toward the support of our movement will receive a year's subscription to the *Journal* free of charge. If you are already a subscriber you can have your gift subscription sent to a friend.

Concerned Presbyterians, Inc. will be glad to send all members copies of the following informative booklets FREE OF CHARGE.

The National Council of Churches—A Menace to Church and State — 36-page booklet of articles appearing in the *Presbyterian Journal*.

The Fifth NCC Assembly: A Report — 8-page booklet by Dr. G. Aiken Taylor.

The National Council of Churches —A Power Bloc in Protestantism — 12-page booklet by Dr. G. Aiken Taylor

Confessions of a Liberal Turned Conservative — The testimony of a Presbyterian minister who was weaned away from his belief in an inerrant Bible at seminary but has returned to preaching Christ and Him crucified.

St. Mark's Vestry Committee Report on the National Council of Churches — 48-page booklet giving documented facts obtained in a 10-months study of the NCC by the Vestry of St. Mark's Episcopal Church of Shreveport, Louisiana — largest Episcopal Church in the Diocese.

These and other informative booklets have been assembled in our Information Packet. It's yours for the asking. If you care to make a contribution to defray printing and mailing costs it will be welcome. Write for your packet today!

Make Your Copy Do "Double Duty"

This Bulletin No. 1 is being mailed to all members who have enrolled in Concerned Presbyterians, to all Presbyterian U.S. ministers and missionaries, to Clerks of Sessions and to a large list of church officers and others who have indicated their concern. 50,000 copies have been printed but there are 950,000 members in the Presbyterian Church U.S. that should be concerned. When you have read your copy pass it along to others. Better still send us the names and addresses of the elders and deacons in your church and we will mail them a copy.