

WESTMINSTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

CHESTNUT HILL

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, 19118

March 10, 1981

Dr. Carl W. Bogue
Faith Presbyterian Church
2540 South Main Street
Akron, OH 44319

Dear Carl:

It was a delight to see you again last week in Atlanta and I am profoundly grateful to you for taking the time to talk with me privately to explain your understanding of what is happening within the PCA. I respect you for this and pray that the Lord will bless your efforts to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace within the denominational fellowship to which you belong as well as within the broader Presbyterian community of which we are all a part.

As I indicated to you toward the close of our conversation, I feel compelled now to oppose an Orthodox Presbyterian acceptance of the invitation to unite with the PCA. Believe me, I do treasure the contact which we have with many of the brethren in the PCA and have always felt up until last week that the union would be in the final analysis the best thing for the advance of the cause of the kingdom. However, in the light of the information we were given by the Ad Interim Committee I think now that it is best for us to delay union negotiations until such time as a union can be secured without disrupting the unity that we already enjoy within the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. I think you can understand my concern in this matter.

I will be submitting a minority report to the General Assembly of our denomination recommending that we respectfully decline the invitation to join the PCA. Our committee voted on Saturday morning by a vote of 3 to 1, with one abstention, to recommend to our Assembly that we accept the invitation.

For your own information I am sending along to you a letter which I sent to the Presbytery of Philadelphia of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church on September 15, 1980. It will give you more background to understand the developments in that presbytery and will also give you my criticism of the way in which the controversy has been pursued by Palmer Robertson and Paul Settle. It does not make for edifying reading but I think that you at least as a member of your committee ought to have as background information.

May the Lord continue to prosper you in the ministry of His word.

Cordially yours,



Norman Shepherd
Associate Professor
of Systematic Theology