

Rev. George P. Wilson, *President.*  
Rev. James H. Shields, *Secretary.*  
Mr. Wm. C. Wilson, *Treasurer.*

OFFICE OF THE  
PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE  
—OF THE—

Presbytery of St. Louis, Synod of Missouri.

1107 Olive Street, March 10<sup>th</sup> 1887.

Dear Brethren

By direction of the above Committee, I hand you a copy of the Overture, which unanimously passed the Presbytery of St. Louis, on Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> 1886.

Will you kindly give this matter of Temperance, prayerful consideration, and instruct your representatives to send up a similar Overture from your Presbytery.

The total expenditure of the Presbyterian Church for the year 1886 (fr. 558 of minutes), was \$10,592.31; the total contributed for temperance was \$3,307. — or about three cents on each \$100. —

Our St. Louis Committee has just asked each Church in our Presbytery to take up a Collection in March 1887, and send the proceeds to the Rev. James Allison, box 1024 Pittsburgh Pa. Treasurer of the Assembly permanent Comm.

Will not your Church also take up a Collection and thus show its sympathy with this great reform.

Yours truly

Wm. C. Wilson



EXTRACTS FROM REPORT  
OF  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE,

ADOPTED BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY, MAY 24th, 1881.

MINUTES, PAGE 536-7.

“The subject of Temperance holds the foremost place in matters of moral reform in our day. In its comprehensive relations to the physical, moral and spiritual welfare of our fellow-men, it far exceeds in importance any question outside of the strict limits of practical theology. To reform the inebriate, to guard the unfallen against the terrible dangers to which they are exposed, and to raise the tone of public opinion so that it should no longer uphold and tolerate the customs and the traffic which cause such incalculable mischief to the bodies and the souls of men, is not only an eminently Christian work, but one which may well call for special exertions and specific forms of work on the part of the Church itself. The various deliverances of the General Assembly on the subject have for nearly seventy years, or almost during the entire period of the effort for reform, been freely uttered, and have shown the most cordial sympathy with the Temperance movement. These emphatic declarations furnish ground for expecting such advanced action as can rightly be taken by the assembly, and particularly some step which will make the Temperance reform a part of the organic life and work of the Church through its supreme representative body.

“Your Committee believe that by establishing a Permanent Committee on Temperance, and by making the Committee the organ of sympathy and united action among the Synods, greater prominence will be given to the cause, not only in the eyes of our people, but before the community generally; and the influence of our Church in promoting the reform will be grander and productive of weightier results. Our Church, without intolerance to such as may not agree with this policy, would thus virtually constitute a society for the prevention of the vice and evils which result from the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, just as it now constitutes a society for the education of young men for the ministry, for the publishing of approved literary works for supporting the aged and infirm ministers or their dependent families, as well as for spreading the gospel through the world.

“The duty of this Permanent Committee shall be to seek to quicken and to unite our Synods and Churches in suitable measures for promoting the Temperance Reform; to mature and report action on the subject to the General Assembly; to gather and report such statistics as may be of value and interest to the Church; to call attention to the deliverances of the Assembly on Temperance; and recommend to the Board of Publication the issue of suitable works on the subject; to codify the previous acts of Assembly on Temperance for publication by the Board; and to initiate measures for promoting similar action by other branches of the Evangelical Church.

“In view of the evils wrought by this scourge of our race, this Assembly would hail, with acclamations of joy and thanksgiving, the utter extermination of the traffic in intoxicating liquors as a beverage, by the power of Christian conscience, public opinion, and the strong arm of the civil law.”—*Minutes 1884, page 73.*



*The Presbytery of*.....

*Synod of*.....

In conformity with the past deliverances of the General Assembly on the question of Temperance and Prohibition, and the greatly advanced position of Christendom on this great moral reform, Presbytery submits the following overture for the action of the General Assembly, which meets in May, 1887, at Omaha.

That the Permanent Committee on Temperance be organized into a Chartered, Permanent Board of the General Assembly, with full power to carry out the deliverances of the General Assembly on the subject of Temperance and Prohibition, and to Co-operate with other Christian denominations in the promotion of those objects.

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H. M. MASON,  
619 CHESTNUT STREET,  
ST. LOUIS, MO.



*Recd Sat. am. Mar. 12/87.*

FOR THE CHURCH SESSION.

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Care of Rev *William H. Belden.*

*Bridgeton.*

*N.J.*

BRIDGE  
1887  
MAY 12  
N. C.  
P. M.