

Church History Senior S 6

been able to appeal as members of the church who wanted to hold their church and not have it taken away from them. I think in the case of the Collingswood church it was especially unjust because over there the church had been built within the previous fifteen years and the, while Mr. McIntire was Pastor during the time of the depression when money was difficult to get, during a period of six years they had paid about \$60,000 on the mortgage and these people who had paid out these great sums of money on it were members of the church of the nine hundred and ninety-five . It was these people who had paid for the church and built it up, but the courts ruled that the church belonged to the denomination or to the group of its members who said they wanted to stay in the denomination. There were only five or six of them who were members of the church then. After the rest withdrew and left the building they were joined by enough to bring it up to about fifty, including people who were modernistic in sympathy and who had withdrawn even as early as when Dr. Laird was pastor there because they didn't like his preaching, with its Christian emphasis, but they came back to the church, but that building into which the people had put all that money was taken away.

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When we formed the Presbyterian Church of America with that in mind, that situation which had occurred in various churches--this was before the Collingswood church was taken but with in mind that which had occurred in other churches, we included in the original constitution of the church a statement that if a church should decide to withdraw from the denomination that its property should remain with the church and that it had the right to take its property with them. There were some who opposed that but it was overwhelmingly passed and then when we formed the Bible Presbyterian church we incorporated that in the constitution of the church and I believe an action was passed that this is irrevocable. Of course you can never make anything irrevocable because if you pass an action that it is irrevocable they can, somebody can take it and