

United Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.

Presbytery of Des Moines

April 15, 1963

Dear Mr. Smith

We, the Presbytery of Des Moines, have unanimously endorsed the nomination of Arthur H. Cruickshank for Moderator of the 175th General Assembly. We can understand your dilemma as a Commissioner in choosing a Moderator. That's why we want to be as clear as possible in telling you of Art Cruickshank's diligent use of his talents in the many ways this pastor has been called upon as a presbyter to serve Our Lord.

In his nine years in this Presbytery, Mr. Cruickshank has become well-known for his ability to cut through tangled debate and point up the heart of an issue. His ability to think quickly and express his thoughts clearly is a prized asset in helping to move through the necessary business of Presbytery's meetings. When there's a point of government to be cleared up, or a parliamentary snag to be overcome, he's a valuable man to turn to.

Much of Mr. Cruickshank's committee work has been as Chairman of the Committee on Ecumenical Mission and Relations, a position in which he has worked continuously to keep before the presbyters and their 52 churches the mission of taking the Gospel to the whole world.

He has worked ably and lovingly with individual congregations, as Moderator of vacant churches and as a member of committees or commissions to help an existing congregation solve difficulties or a new congregation begin its mission.

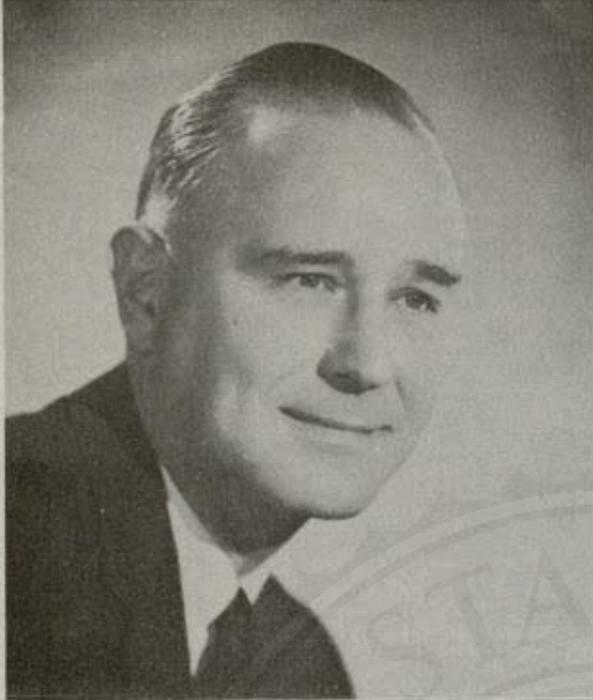
His service and counsel have been invaluable in our General Council, and never more so than this year, in which he is Vice-Moderator of the Presbytery. And while serving as Presbytery's representative on the Synod of Iowa's General Council, he has been Chairman of that body.

He's also known for his extremely conscientious service as Chairman of the Presbytery's former Committee on Examination of Candidates and as Chairman or member of such other committees as Christian Education and Church Extension.

Art Cruickshank's faithful service is that of an outstanding presbyter. As a Presbytery, we feel strongly that he's the outstanding candidate for Moderator of the General Assembly.

Sincerely,

*Joe R. Patrick*  
Joe R. Patrick (Ruling Elder)  
Moderator



ARTHUR H. CRUICKSHANK, pastor of Central Presbyterian Church for nine years, has brought his congregation to a deeper understanding of the ministry of the whole Church. With this emphasis he has pointed the need for personal and church growth in relationship to God. The church has responded in a new ministry of the laymen and a dimension of Christian witness that validate this growth through his leadership. Commitment is shown as laymen take leadership in Presbytery, Synod and national church concerns; lead worship services and fill vacant pulpits; study in Laymen's Theological Seminary; act on a new understanding of Christian witness in vocation.

Born of missionary parents at Bogota, Colombia, in 1912, Mr. Cruickshank attended high school at Coraopolis, Pa., and was graduated from The College of Wooster in 1934. He received his degree from McCormick Theological Seminary in 1937, took graduate work at Union Theological Seminary and in 1959 received the Doctor of Divinity degree from Buena Vista College.

His church concern led him to evangelistic work in Alaska with the Board of National Missions, and to his present service on the National Commission of Ecumenical Mission and Relations. Further, he has led and participated on teams directing church officer training in 10 Synods. His present parish is one of 50 pilot congregations working on the new suggestions for church officer training. With his guidance 29 young people have come into full time Christian service

Mr. Cruickshank was elected by the General Assembly as a delegate from the Presbyterian Church to the World Presbyterian Alliance in Sao Paulo, Brazil. At the national union of our two churches he was on the Committee for establishing the Office of General Assembly. He has also served the General Assembly on the Permanent Committee on Inter-Church Relations, as chairman of the Standing Committee on Theological Education and as chairman of the Committee for the Jubilee, 1959-60.

During his pastorates in Harbor Springs and Mason, Mich.; Portsmouth, Ohio; and in Des Moines, Mr. Cruickshank has been active in the work of Synod and Presbytery. He has shown progressive leadership as chairman of the General Council of Synod, as a member of the General Council and Moderator and Vice Moderator of Presbytery. He was initial chairman of the General Presbyters' Service, a committee designed to aid the rural church problem. He has been chairman of Presbytery committees on Social Education and Action, Christian Education, the Churches Ministry to the Sick, Ecumenical Mission and Relations, and the Examination of Candidates.

In his search for ways to help people accept God's Grace and Love, Mr. Cruickshank has studied pastoral psychology at Andover Newton Theological Seminary with work at Boston City Hospital. Special studies of labor problems, national and international problems have further widened the scope of his ministry. Just recently he was one of 18 pastors who met at the Menninger Clinic, Topeka, Kans., at the direction of the Board of Christian Education to study the meaning of multiple staff in the Presbyterian Church.

Excelling as a teacher and leader of thought, Arthur Cruickshank has often used these skills to conduct Religious Emphasis programs for colleges and universities and in writing for the Faith and Life Curriculum and for "Today".

He is married to the former Margaret Gourley and they have 3 children: Sandra Cruickshank Phelps (Mrs. Thomas); Joe, college junior; Dave, high school sophomore.