

Status of Christ divides Ward from mother church

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which the Rev. L. Edward Davies, executive pastor, valued at \$5 million.

The General Assembly took action that increases its control over real and personal congregational assets, said Dr. Hess.

"Potential abuse of coercive power is implied," he said. "Our church is one of the most innovative and creative in the denomination. It is the fastest-growing large church. We don't want it interfered with."

THE WITHDRAWAL action was taken at what Dr. Hess called "probably as large a congregational meeting as ever has been held in a Presbyterian church." About 2,200 were present, but only members voted.

It also included several resolutions, one of them enabling Dr. Hess to appoint a study committee that will review possible affiliation with another Presbyterian group.

The Livonia church began 24 years ago as a mission of Ward Memorial Presbyterian of Detroit. Its growth has been steady in membership and budget.

Its ministerial staff now numbers five, and it has added a mission of its own in the area between Plymouth and Ann Arbor.

Dr. Hess said the denomination had held a meeting in New York last week regarding the impending action and there had been strong attempts to change it. Dr. Donald Lester, executive

of the Detroit Presbytery, attended the Monday meeting at the invitation of the Ward staff and spoke against the projected split.

"This is a heartbreaker for me," said Dr. Hess. "I did not want to go and do not think it would turn out this way."

"We are not leaving the historic church. However, we feel the denomination has left us."



For Dr. Bartlett L. Hess, the decision to lead his congregation to separate from its denomination was painful but definite.

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Council rejects sirens

(Continued from Page 1A)

might have its advantages, I'm just not sold at this time," said Alkateeb.

Alkateeb pointed out the council had cut the budget in many areas this year, and he didn't see the cost-benefit ratio in installing such a system.

Mrs. Dolan, a prime supporter of the system, noted that the system would have broken down to \$1 per resident.

"I don't think you'd have anyone who would oppose it from the community," she said.

Each siren would cost between \$8,500 and \$9,000, according to Gary Canfield, Oakland County disaster director.

In 1977, each siren would have cost \$6,500, he said.

Alkateeb also noted that while the tornado season is from April through June, the system, if adopted, wouldn't be installed until October.

Opposition was underlined by arguments from Oppenheimer, who favored the system three years ago.

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