

APPENDIX D

Report from the Minister of Council



Confederation of Reformed Evangelical Churches Minister of Council – Report to Council October, 2011

1. This report is primarily for informational purposes. However, I request that action be taken on items **4a**, **4b** and **4c**.
2. Document revisions
The CREC Constitution and Book of Procedures have been reviewed and technical amendments are being offered for Council's consideration in 2011.
3. Travel on behalf of the CREC
 - a. Visit to Phoenix, Arizona, October, 2010.
I engaged in consultation with the elders of Emmanuel Covenant Church regarding its pastoral search and other issues, including support for efforts to achieve reconciliation with departing members.
 - b. Meeting in Houston, Texas, February, 2011.
I organized and conducted a conference with Ministers of the seven Presbyteries. The meeting was graciously hosted by St. David's Church in Hockley, Texas and her pastor, Rev. Gene Franklin.
 - c. Conference in Eugene, Oregon, February, 2011.
I engaged in consultation with the pastor and elders of Church of the King regarding their strategic efforts to reach the greater Eugene area. I also gave a series of talks on Friday, Saturday and Sunday for the church.
 - d. Pastor's Conference in Ukraine, April 2-3, 2011
 - i. Rivne Biblical Church (CREC), served by Pastor San Sanych Orlov-Koshchavka, hosted a pastor's conference in the spring. Pastor Bogumil Jarmulak and I were the speakers, giving talks on the theme, "The Transforming Word."
 - ii. The conference was attended by 14 ministers and elders from 10 churches in various parts of Ukraine.

- iii. After the conference, Pastor San Sanych, Bogumil and I met with various government officials to finalize plans by RBC to hold a medical clinic ministry in the city during the summer.
 - iv. Leaving Ukraine, Bogumil and I drove together to Budapest to visit missionary Attila Hajdu and his family. The three of us then visited a pastor of our acquaintance in Croatia. I had initiated talks with this man two years ago about a possible alliance or membership with the CREC. On Saturday, April 9, we traveled with him to Novi Sad, Serbia, to attend a Christian book fair and to meet a missionary working to establish a Reformed church in Beograd (Belgrade). On Sunday, April 10, I spoke in the church in Tordinci, Croatia, in the morning and at Osijek, Croatia, in the evening. One month later, these churches announced they were joining the REC.
 - e. Meeting in Birmingham, Alabama, May, 2011.
 - i. I engaged in consultation with pastors and elders of several churches of Athanasius Presbytery on the topic of the CREC's name.
 - ii. I ministered the Word at Church of the Good Shepherd (CREC mission church) in North Augusta, South Carolina on Sunday morning, and at Christ Church, Atlanta, on Sunday evening.
 - iii. Met for encouragement and counsel with Pastor Jeremy Sexton, of Christ Church, Atlanta.
 - f. Visit to Poland, June 29 - July 12, 2011
 - i. Together with Pastor Garry Vanderveen (Christ Covenant Church, Langley, B.C., Canada) I accompanied a group of about 30 young people from 5 different CREC congregations on an evangelism/choir trip to Poland.
 - ii. We spent one week in Poznan where there is a particularized CREC congregation, and a second week in Gdansk. Poland, where the Evangelical Reformed Church of Wroclaw (CREC) maintains a mission station.
 - iii. As a result of this visit, some new people have begun attending the Gdansk mission's worship services each Lord's Day.
 - iv. My expenses for this trip were borne solely by Covenant Bible Church of Chugiak, Alaska.
- 4. Committee and Commission appointments and activities
 - a. During the 2008 Council, discussion emerged regarding the possibility of the CREC being a sponsoring agency for military chaplains. In February 2011, I appointed an *ad hoc* committee to look into the matter. It has completed its work and will report to Council at the triennial meeting in 2011. Members of the committee were Rev. Tom Brainerd, Chairman;

Rev. Jeremy Saxton; and Elder Eric Stoer. **Ratification of this action is requested.**

- b. The 2008 Council appointed a foreign missions committee to 1) organize a missions conference immediately following the 2011 meeting of Council, and 2) to formulate constitutional language for organizing and standardizing relationships with international churches and groups of churches. The Council specifically named nine men to this committee. During 2011, at the request of two members, I relieved them of their duty and replaced them on the committee with Rev. Brian Nolder and Rev. Eric Sauder. The committee has completed its work and will report to Council at the triennial meeting in 2011. **Ratification of the committee change is requested.**
- c. Anselm Presbytery passed an overture at its stated meeting in October, 2010, requesting the appointment of a committee to review the ordination procedures of the CREC and to make recommendations for change. I appointed an *ad hoc* committee to address this matter. The committee consisted of Rev. Dennis Tuuri, Chairman, Rev. Toby Sumpter, Rev. John Barach and Rev. Rich Lusk. The committee has completed its work and will report to Council at the triennial meeting in 2011. **Ratification of this action is requested.**
- d. In 2011, an appeal was filed by a former member of St. Peter Presbyterian Church, in Bristol, Virginia, regarding an action taken against the member, excommunicating said member. Augustine Presbytery appointed a Court to hear the case and the Court found against St. Peter Presbyterian Church. St. Peter Presbyterian Church has served notice of its intent to appeal the decision to Council. I anticipate appointing an Appeals Court to address this matter in the near future.

5. Miscellaneous activities

- a. Since the presbytery meetings of 2010, I have fielded approximately forty-five inquiries from outside the CREC regarding the need for new church plants, help for existing churches both inside and outside the US, interest by pastors seeking a call, interest from men finishing their seminary training, and others. Responses have been given in each case. In several cases, I have referred the inquiry to pastors in the affected area, or to the Presiding Minister of the affected region.
- b. I have been called upon by the Presiding Ministers of the several presbyteries for consultation on various matters throughout the past year. In each case, we have been able to work together to resolve problems, give advice to individual churches and their sessions and determine appropriate

measures to address a variety of problems and concerns within the CREC family.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Phelps". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Rev. Jack E. Phelps, Presiding Minister
CREC Council