



Minutes of the annual meeting of Anselm Presbytery of the Confederation of Reformed Evangelical Churches

Bellevue, Washington

October 26-27, 2006

Thursday, October 26, 2006

Scheduled Ordination Exam

8:05 a.m. – Jeff Niell, Joost Nixon, and Douglas Wilson conducted an ordination/credentials review of Pastor Sean Brandt of Trinity Covenant Church in Wichita, KS. Pastor Brandt is already ordained in the PCA. The committee recommended that Pastor Brandt's credentials be received.

Anselm Presbytery meeting: Introductory Matters

9:04 a.m. – The 2006 Anselm Presbytery meeting was called to order by Moderator Wilson.

Pastor Garry Vanderveen delivered the invocation.

David Erb, music minister of Eastside Evangelical Fellowship, led in singing Psalm 100 and “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken.”

Elder Douglas Jones gave an exhortation from the book of Ecclesiastes.

Pastor Randy Booth, Moderator of the CREC Council, and Moderator Wilson gave exhortations.

Moderator Wilson explained his philosophy of agenda management, which will be followed over the course of the Presbytery meeting.

Recognition of Member Churches

Moderator Wilson called the roll of member churches and reported that Ancient Hope Reformed Church, Mission Viejo, CA, closed during the past year.

All current member churches of Anselm Presbytery were represented as of 9:46 a.m., with the exception of Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Fallon, NV. Delegates present:

Jack Phelps—Covenant Bible Church
Jeff Niell—Emmanuel Covenant Church
Richard Klaus—Emmanuel Covenant Church
James Ratliff—Church of the King, Santa Cruz

Don Broesamle—Church of the King, Santa Cruz
Mike Ferguson—Providence Reformed Church
Ed Iverson—Christ Church, Moscow
Douglas Jones—Christ Church, Moscow
Chris Schlect—Trinity Reformed Church
Patch Blakey—Trinity Reformed Church
Alan Burrow—The King’s Congregation
Bill Proctor—The King’s Congregation
Scott Snider—Christ the King Church, Eugene
Dennis Tuuri—Reformation Covenant Church, Oregon City
John Shaw—Reformation Covenant Church, Oregon City
Marty Allen—Trinity Reformation Church, Salem
Chris Wilson—Trinity Reformation Church, Salem
Joost Nixon—Christ Church, Spokane
Ron Coverdale—Christ Covenant Church, Lynnwood
Dean Hellekson—Christ Covenant Church, Lynnwood
Dave Hatcher—Eastside Evangelical Fellowship, Woodinville
Gene Helsel—Trinity Church, Wenatchee
Brian Eifert—Trinity Church, Wenatchee
Garry Vanderveen—Christ Covenant Church, Langley, BC
Ken Ewert—Christ Covenant Church, Langley, BC
Ralph Smith—Mitaka Evangelical Church, Tokyo

A quorum was established and announced.

Representatives of the churches gave oral reports to supplement the written reports already submitted. Pastor Ralph Smith of Mitaka Evangelical Church gave an extended report, discussing the special challenges of ministry in a foreign setting.

Pastor Gene Helsel gave a prayer of thanks in response to the church reports.

10:45 a.m. –Presbytery recessed for a short break.

10:55 a.m. – Presbytery reconvened.

Consideration of Candidate Churches

Pastor Blake Purcell of Reformed Presbyterian Church, St. Petersburg, Russia, and Pastor Oleg Volkov of Annunciation Presbyterian Church, Pushkin, Russia, gave extended reports about their churches.

Pastor Bogumil Jarmulak gave an extended report about the two Evangelical Reformed Churches in Poland.

06/10/26:1 Motion (Shaw/Smith) to accept into full membership the Reformed Presbyterian Church of St. Petersburg, Russia. The motion carried without opposition.

06/10/26:2 Motion (Shaw/Ewert) to accept into full membership Annunciation Presbyterian Church, Pushkin, Russia. The motion carried without opposition.

06/10/26:3 Motion (Shaw/Phelps) to accept into full membership Evangelical Reformed Church, Wrocław, Poland. The motion carried without opposition.

06/10/26:4 Motion (Tuuri/Helsel) to accept into full membership Evangelical Reformed Church, Poznań, Poland. The motion carried without opposition.

The reports from the remaining two candidate churches were postponed until after the lunch recess.

12:04 p.m. – Presbytery recessed for lunch.

1:33 p.m. – Presbytery reconvened.

06/10/26:5 Motion (Tuuri/Ratliff) to accept into full membership Church of the King, Sacramento, CA. The motion carried without opposition.

Elder Derek Hale of Trinity Covenant Church, Wichita, KS, gave a report about the church he represents, and Pastor Gene Helsel described and commended the church.

06/10/26:6 Motion (Helsel/Niell) to accept into full membership Trinity Covenant Church, Wichita, KS. The motion carried without opposition.

Moderator Wilson administered the oath of membership in the CREC to the representatives of the new Anselm Presbytery member churches.

Introduction and Consideration of New Candidate Churches

06/10/26:7 Motion (Vanderveen/Nixon) to convey candidate status to Christ Covenant Church, Grande Prairie, AB. The motion carried without opposition.

06/10/26:8 Motion (Ferguson/Vanderveen) to convey candidate status to Christ Covenant Church, Steamboat Springs, CO. The motion carried without opposition.

06/10/26:9 Motion (Jones/Blakey) to convey candidate status to Christ Covenant Church, Enterprise, OR. The motion carried without opposition.

06/10/26:10 Motion (Blakey/Iverson) to convey candidate status to Christ Reformed Church, Meeker, CO. The motion carried without opposition.

Introduction and Consideration of New Mission Churches

Pastor Garry Vanderveen introduced Saint Andrew's Community Church, Santa Clarita, CA, as a mission church of Christ Covenant Church, Langley, BC.

Pastor Joost Nixon introduced St. Brendan's, Coeur d'Alene, ID, as a mission church of Christ Church, Spokane, WA.

Pastor Dennis Tuuri introduced Reformation Covenant Church of Southern Oregon, Medford, OR, as a mission church of Reformation Covenant Church, Oregon City, OR.

Pastor Jeff Niell and Pastor Mike Ferguson introduced Covenant Reformed Fellowship, Greeley, CO, as a mission church of Providence Reformed Church, Grand Junction, CO.

Pastor Jeff Niell introduced Trinity Reformed Church, Albuquerque, NM, as a mission church of Emmanuel Covenant Church, Glendale, AZ.

Moderator Wilson introduced Emmanuel Chapel, Helena, MT, as a mission church of Christ Church, Moscow, ID.

Recognition of Visiting Churches

Joshua Downes and Geoff Downes of Trinity Church, southern Tasmania, were recognized as visitors.

Pastor Theo Hoekstra of Grace Covenant Church, Sunshine Coast, BC, was recognized as a visitor.

Pastor Ron Weinbaum of King's Highway Reformed Church, Brooklyn, NY, was recognized as a visitor.

Doug Devine from Menlo Park, CA, was recognized as a visitor.

Pastor Randy Booth, Moderator of Council, introduced the ministry of the Confederation of Reformed Evangelical Churches of Myanmar.

Old Business

06/10/26:11 Motion (Niell/Schlect) to adopt the CREC Book of Procedures as the Book of Procedures for Anselm Presbytery. The motion carried without opposition.

Pastor Jack Phelps discussed the brief biographical statement about St. Anselm and his theology that he prepared for Anselm Presbytery.

06/10/26:12 Motion (Schlect/Broesamle) to receive the brief biography of St. Anselm and enter it into the minutes. The motion carried without opposition.

06/10/26:13 Motion (Ratliff/Ewert) to ask Pastor Phelps to continue his biographical work on St. Anselm by writing a second sketch focusing on events in Anselm's life. The motion carried without opposition.

Pastor Jeff Niell reported on his observation of the 2006 meeting of Augustine Presbytery.

06/10/26:14 Motion (Hatcher/Phelps) to receive Pastor Niell's report and enter it into the minutes. The motion carried without opposition.

06/10/26:15 Motion (Schlect/Allen) to commend Pastor Niell for his representation of Anselm Presbytery at the Augustine Presbytery meeting, and to send him to the Augustine Presbytery meeting next year in the same capacity. The motion carried without opposition.

Pastor Ralph Smith presented the report of the "moderator and ecclesial" committee of the CREC.

2:48 p.m. – Presbytery recessed for a short break.

3:01 p.m. – Presbytery reconvened.

Moderator Wilson announced the worship service to be held at 6:30 p.m. in Kirkland.

New Business

In order to increase the time available for discussing motions that needed it, Moderator Wilson listed the proposed motions to find out how many delegates wanted to have floor discussion of each one.

06/10/26:16 Motion (Iverson/Phelps) to amend the Anselm Presbytery BOP by adding the following language:

VIII/D—Motion on Mission Churches in Alien Presbyteries

In cases where the mother church of a mission church is a member of one presbytery, but the mission church will be voted on to become a member of another presbytery, the mother church may propose membership of the mission church via a visiting delegate to speak on behalf of the mission church, or, in lieu of this, provide a written report and request. In cases where the action is proposed via a written report, an elder from the mission church must attend presbytery.

The motion was defeated.

06/10/26:17 Motion (Schlect/Hatcher) to amend the Anselm Presbytery BOP by adopting the language on mission churches in alien presbyteries that was already adopted by Augustine Presbytery. The language is to be added to Article IX. The motion carried.

Churches from other presbyteries may be granted the right to propose membership of a mission or candidate church either in person or in writing.

06/10/26:18 Motion (Vanderveen/Blakey) to amend the Anselm Presbytery BOP by adding the following language:

In the event that a sponsoring church for a candidate church is unable to fulfill its commitments of sponsorship, the moderator of presbytery may assign a new member church to that candidate church to complete the sponsoring responsibilities. Normally, such a reassignment should occur at least 60 days prior to the next presbytery meeting.

Motion (Ratliff/Helsel) to amend the portion of the motion that reads, “the moderator of presbytery may assign a new member church to that candidate church to complete the sponsoring responsibilities” to read instead, “the moderator of presbytery will work in conjunction with the sponsoring church, if possible, to find a suitable new member church to complete the sponsoring responsibilities.” The motion was defeated.

Hatcher called for the question. The main motion was defeated 12-13.

06/10/26:19 Motion (Nixon/Blakey) to amend the Anselm Presbytery BOP by adding the following language:

Upon the request of a member church in the CREC, the moderator of presbytery or council has the authority to register the ministerial credentials of a minister lawfully ordained. Holding a man’s ministerial credentials does not mean that the man is a member of presbytery or council, or a delegate to presbytery or council. Removing a man’s credentials from such a register is not equivalent to a defrocking, which can only be done in the CREC at the local church level.

Pastor Gregg Strawbridge, moderator of Augustine Presbytery, reported on the way in which Augustine Presbytery had acted on this motion.

The maker and seconder of the motion restated the motion using the language adopted by Augustine Presbytery, as follows:

Upon the request of a member church in the CREC, the moderator of presbytery has the authority to register the ministerial credentials of a minister lawfully ordained. Holding a man’s ministerial credentials does not mean that the man is a member of presbytery or council, or a delegate to presbytery or council. The list shall be reviewed and approved by Presbytery annually. Removing a man’s credentials from such a register is not equivalent to a defrocking, which can only be done in the CREC at the local church level.

The motion carried.

Moderator Wilson distributed a written report issued by Moderator Booth of the CREC Council on his work with Christ Church, Moscow and Church of the King, Santa Cruz.

David Erb led in singing Psalm 117.

Pastor Dennis Tuuri closed the meeting with prayer.

4:31 p.m. – Presbytery recessed for the day.

Friday, October 27, 2006

8:04 a.m. – The meeting was called to order by Moderator Wilson.

Pastor Mike Ferguson delivered the invocation.

David Erb led the singing of Psalms 2 and 110.

Pastor Tim Tucker of Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Fallon, NV, gave a brief report on his church.

Pastor Blake Purcell gave an audiovisual presentation on the work of the CREC member churches and mission churches in Russia, and Moderator Wilson led those present in a “Prayer for CREC Global Covenant Maturity.”

Moderator Wilson suggested that future Council meetings be held jointly with meetings of the individual Presbyteries.

06/10/27:1 Motion (Vanderveen/Smith) to amend the Anselm Presbytery BOP by adding the following language in a new Article XI:

Any presbytery of the CREC may amend their BOP with constitutional language, provided the amendment is not in open conflict with any existing element of the Constitution. All such provisional amendments may be harmonized between presbyteries at the CREC Council by amending the CREC Constitution, or may be left in the BOP as they are.

The motion was defeated.

Pastor Randy Booth, Moderator of Council, gave a brief report on his actions as moderator in the past year.

Moderator Wilson gave an exhortation regarding the manner and bounds of discussion of the CREC moderator’s actions.

06/10/27:2 Motion (Burrow/Allen) to commend the Moderator of Council for his actions in regard to St. Peter Presbyterian Church. The motion carried.

Elder James Ratliff offered a report on Church of the King, Santa Cruz, CA, with commentary on the actions of the Moderator of Anselm Presbytery.

In his capacity as Moderator of Council and as chairman of the committee mediating between the sessions of Church of the King, Santa Cruz, CA, and Christ Church, Moscow, ID, Pastor Randy Booth offered a response to Elder Ratliff's concerns.

Moderator Wilson responded to Elder Ratliff's concerns with special reference to the question whether the CREC is a "church."

06/10/27:3 Motion (Schlect/Tuuri) to receive the report of the Moderator of Council with commendation.

The maker and seconder of the motion restated the motion as follows: "*Motion to acknowledge receipt of this report with commendation.*"

Motion (Ewert/Jones) to amend the motion to read as follows: "*Motion to receive this report and commend the action taken.*" The motion to amend carried.

The main motion carried as amended.

Elder James Ratliff reported that the session of Church of the King had complied fully with the requirements made of them by the mediation committee.

Pastor Garry Vanderveen led the Presbytery in prayer.

10:27 a.m. – Presbytery recessed for a short break.

10:39 a.m. – Presbytery reconvened.

06/10/27:4 Motion (Schlect/Hatcher) to specifically acknowledge our moderator's constitutional and pastoral prerogative to advise formation of a new mission church in the Santa Cruz area if he believes it prudent, urging him all the while to act with due charity toward Church of the King and, in light of the present situation, in regular conference with Joost Nixon, Garry Vanderveen, and Ralph Smith.

Motion (Ewert/Broesamle) to amend the motion by assigning the moderator of council to be chairman of the new committee, instead of the moderator of Anselm Presbytery. The motion carried 14-11.

11:12 a.m. – Presbytery recessed for a brief discussion among the moderators of the Presbyteries and Council.

11:13 a.m. – Presbytery reconvened.

Motion (Stoos/Nixon) to table the main motion. The motion to table the motion carried.

Pastor Dennis Tuuri, Moderator *pro tempore* of Anselm Presbytery, assumed the chair.

Pastor Douglas Wilson spoke about the issue of the moderator's personal involvement in the business of Presbytery, and the practical difficulty of a moderator being asked to recuse himself precisely when he is the one most in position to solve certain problems.

Douglas Wilson resumed the chair.

06/10/27:5 Motion (Schlect/Hatcher) to specifically acknowledge the Anselm moderator's constitutional and pastoral prerogative to advise formation of a new mission church in the Santa Cruz area if he believes it prudent, urging him all the while to act with due charity toward Church of the King and, in light of the present situation, in regular conference with Joost Nixon, Garry Vanderveen, and Ralph Smith. The motion carried.

Elder Chris Schlect gave a brief summary of his latest installment on the history of the CREC.

06/10/27:6 Motion (Iverson/Burrow) to hold the 2007 meeting of Anselm Presbytery in Moscow, ID, during the week of October 22. The motion carried without opposition.

Moderator Wilson gave an exhortation, considering the rapid growth of the CREC and the heavy burden of serving as Moderator of the CREC Council, for the churches to give appropriate financial support to the Moderator of Council and others who are involved in serving the CREC at a broader level.

Moderator Wilson welcomed the new member churches of Anselm Presbytery and asked that they give their contact information to Pastor Randy Booth and Pastor Garry Vanderveen.

Thanks were offered to Eastside Evangelical Fellowship for their role in hosting this year's Presbytery.

David Erb led in singing Psalm 117.

12:06 p.m. – Motion (Nixon) to adjourn. The motion carried without opposition.