

Augustine Presbytery
Confederation of Reformed Evangelical Churches
Minutes of the Stated Meeting October 13-15, 2008

Monday, October 13, 2008

Ordination Examinations were held (4:00-6:00 pm):

Pat Hurd's committee:

Todd Davis - chair
Conrad Doskey
Doug Roorda
Bill Izard

Jeff Swanson's committee:

Gene Franklin - chair
Glen Knecht
Rob Davis
Joe Thacker
Lonn Oswalt

Craig Beaton's committee:

Gene Liechty - chair
Toby Sumpter
Bob Corneroli
Eric Sauder
David Bostrum

Steven Wedgeworth's committee:

Rich Lusk
Bill Grete
Gregg Strawbridge
Jeff Evans
Brian Penney

Tuesday, October 14, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 8:20 am by Moderator Gregg Strawbridge.

The first order of business was a welcome from Pastor Randy Booth of Grace Covenant Church of Nacogdoches, Texas.

Pastor Mickey Schneider of Trinity Reformed Church offered prayer for the proceedings and wisdom of the assembly.

Moderator Strawbridge led the assembled in singing of Psalms 2 and 20.

Council Moderator Booth gave an exhortation to Augustine Presbytery from Daniel 2: 20 – 21.

Presbytery Moderator Strawbridge gave an exhortation to the Presbytery from Colossians 4:12ff.

Moderator Strawbridge led in the singing of the *Gloria Patri*.

Moderator Strawbridge called Roll and quorum was established based upon the representation of the following member churches (mission congregations are also listed):

1. All Saints Presbyterian Church, Lancaster, PA
 - Mission: Christ Church Twin Cities CANDIDATE
2. Christ Church, Branchville, AL
3. Christ Church, Searcy, AR
4. Christ Church, Cary, NC
 - Mission: Holy Trinity Reformed Church of Concord, NC
5. Christ Church of Livingston County, Howell, MI
 - Mission: Christ the King Church, New Era, MI CANDIDATE
 - Mission: Holy Trinity Church, Mason, OH
6. Christ Covenant Church, Copiague, NY
 - Mission: King's Highway Reformed, Brooklyn, NY
7. Christ Presbyterian, Baton Rouge, LA
8. Christ Reformed Church, Albion, ME
9. Christ Reformed Evangelical Church, Annapolis, MD
 - Mission: Christ Church of Morgantown, WV
10. Christ the King Church, Springfield, MO
11. Christ the Redeemer Church, Pella, IA
12. Cornerstone Reformed Church, Carbondale, IL
13. Covenant Heritage Reformed Fellowship, Yorktown, VA
14. Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church, Knoxville, TN
 - Mission: Messiah Presbyterian Church, Chattanooga, TN
15. Grace Covenant Church, Texarkana, AR
16. Grace Covenant Church, Nacogdoches, TX
 - Mission: Auburn Avenue Presbyterian Church, Monroe, LA CANDIDATE
 - Mission: Christ Covenant, San Antonio, TX
 - Mission: All Saints Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth, TX
17. Heritage Covenant Church of Weatherford, TX
18. Holy Trinity, Greenville SC
19. Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Clinton, MS
20. Providence Church, Caro, MI
21. Providence Church, Lynchburg, VA
22. Providence Church, Pensacola FL
23. Salem Reformed Church, Rome, GA
24. St. David's Church, Hockley, TX
25. St. Peter Presbyterian, Bristol VA
26. Trinity Presbyterian, Valparaiso, FL
27. Trinity Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, AL
 - Mission: St. Mark Reformed Church (Franklin, TN) CANDIDATE

Moderator Strawbridge read the list of Council Delegates, based on the 2005 minutes:

Gregg Strawbridge [Moderator], Eric Sauder [Moderator Pro Tempore], Jeff Harlow*, Rick Young, Gene Liechty, David Queener, Virgil Hurt, David Alders, and Gene Franklin.

The list of Council Delegates was confirmed with one change.

Sean Mahaffey replaced Jeff Harlow due to Jeff's call to Salem Oregon in Anselm Presbytery.

Moderator Strawbridge called for the presentation of Church Reports and thanksgiving for the developments of the last year.

All Saints Presbyterian Church, Lancaster, PA – Marlin Detweiler

- Starting a provisional leadership training program
- Mission: Christ Church Twin Cities (Proposed for membership this year)

Christ Church, Branchville, AL – Keith Diamond

- Elder-led and currently seeking a pastor

Christ Church, Searcy, AR – Todd Davis

Christ Church, Cary, NC – Gene Liechty

- Beginning a ministerial training program – “Baxter Hall”
- Mission: Holy Trinity Reformed Church of Concord, NC

Christ Church of Livingston County, Howell, MI – Jeff Evans

- Mission: Christ the King Church, New Era, MI (Proposed for membership this year)
- Mission: Holy Trinity Church, Mason, OH

Christ Covenant Church, Copiague, NY – Brian Penney

- Mission: King's Chapel, Brooklyn, NY
- Candidate: Tri-Cities Covenant Church, Somersworth, NH (Proposed for membership this year)

Christ Presbyterian, Baton Rouge, LA – Galen Sorey

Christ Reformed Church, Albion, ME – Rick Young

- Praying for more leadership
- Todd Davis, Pro Tem Elder gave additional good report

Christ Reformed Evangelical Church, Annapolis, MD – Jeff Antkowiak

- Glen Knecht's daughter – matter for prayer
- Looking for more elders/Associate Pastor
- Add to prayers ability to minister to Naval Cadets, for them to take the Gospel out with them
- Mission: Christ Church of Morgantown, WV

Christ the King Church, Springfield, MO – Eric Sauder

- Training two deacons

Christ the Redeemer Church, Pella, IA – Brian Nolder

- Ministerial training program: “Ambrose Hall”
- Brian: Interim pastor for a year

Cornerstone Reformed Church, Carbondale, IL – Burke Shade

- Hospitable church – One family does a meal every week, invites the visitors, college students, friends last.
- Need additional elders

Covenant Heritage Reformed Fellowship, Yorktown, VA – Steve Hemmeke

- Looking for facilities
- Seeking a pastor for a mission plant

Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church, Knoxville, TN – David Queener

- Mission: Messiah Presbyterian Church, Chattanooga, TN
- Recognizes Dan Wilson from Harvest USA

Grace Covenant Church, Texarkana, AR – Bill Izard

- Ben House – Sabbatical this year
- Many young families and not many old people – pray for wisdom and old folks

BREAK 9:55 – 10:10

Grace Covenant Church, Nacogdoches, TX – Randy Booth

- Prayer – Ability to build a facility

- Mission: Christ Covenant, San Antonio, TX
 - David Givler commented on the improvement of his circumstances.
- Mission: All Saints Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth, TX
- Mission: Auburn Avenue Presbyterian Church, Monroe, LA (Proposed for membership this year)

Heritage Covenant Church of Weatherford, TX – RC Sproul, Jr. (pro tem elder)

- Pat Hurd called as Pastor
- Deacon David Fergon and his health problems noted
- Virgil Hurt voiced prayer for David Fergon and his being in the hands of God

Holy Trinity, Greenville SC – Craig Beaton

- Prayer that God would bless relationships with other Reformed works in the area
- Men looking for ministerial training oversight
- Laurence Windham led in prayer for Craig and wisdom in a current discipline situation.

Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Clinton, MS – Bill Grete

- Prayer as looking for land/building

Providence Church, Caro, MI – Bostrom

- Prayer for maturity in believers
- Need to increase leadership
- Praying for the time of sowing leading to a time of reaping

Providence Church, Lynchburg, VA – Virgil Hurt

- Testimony regarding difficult times
- Pastor Booth offered prayer for this situation

Providence Church, Pensacola FL – Alan Stout

- Blessed to have Jonathan Sutton and Mickey Schneider as pro tem elders
- Prayer for beginning relationships with ministries in town
- Extended a call to Uri Brito

Salem Reformed Church, Rome, GA – George Crocker

St. David's Church, Hockley, TX – Gene Franklin

St. Peter Presbyterian, Bristol VA – Laurence Windham

Trinity Presbyterian, Valparaiso, FL – Jonathan Sutton

- Prayer for wisdom in addressing the development of ministry regarding youth

Trinity Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, AL – Rich Lusk

- Prayer need: Looking at building purchase
- Training program to supplement seminary training
- Mission: St. Mark Reformed (Franklin, TN)
- New Mission – Christ Church Atlanta

Moderator Strawbridge invited the greeting of visitors including the following:

- Jared McNabb – Pastoral Intern at All Saints Presbyterian Church, Lancaster, PA
- Covenant Presbyterian Church, Sulphur, LA, James Nabours and Vince Lanier
- Tim Bayly - Church of the Good Shepherd, Bloomington, IN
- Steve Dornan, Pastoral Intern at Covenant Heritage Reformed Fellowship, Newport News/Yorktown, VA

- Uri Brito, of New Life Church, Clermont, FL, Called by Providence Church (CREC), Pensacola, FL
- Woody Moss - Christ Church of Morgantown, WV

Churches Recommended for Full Membership

2008/10/14:01 Motion - (Detweiler/Nolder) Christ Church Twin Cities, MN to be admitted as a member congregation. Representatives: Arnie Abens and Doug Dahl were questioned. The motion carried without opposition.

2008/10/14:02 Motion - (Bostrom/Evans) Trinity Evangelical Church – Larwill, IN to be admitted as a member congregation. Representatives: Nate Harlan and Tim Bushong were questioned. The motion carried without opposition.

2008/10/14:03 Motion - (Booth/Hurt) Auburn Avenue Presbyterian Church, Monroe, LA to be admitted as a member congregation. Representative Steve Wilkins was questioned. The motion carried without opposition.

The morning's session was adjourned by prayer led by Burke Shade and the singing of the Doxology.

Wednesday, October 15, 2008

Pastor Strawbridge reconvened the meeting at 8:30 am, leading the singing of Psalm 119 and prayer.

Moderator Strawbridge announced Jeff Moss's Teaching Elder examination at 7 pm Wednesday night.

Pastor Booth introduced Bishop Loyal Grote of the Reformed Episcopal Church.

Moderator Strawbridge introduced Steve Jeffery, of Emmanuel Evangelical Church, London, England, who discussed plans for a mission church plant in London, England. RC Sproul, Jr. led in pray for these efforts in London.

Putting forward of Churches for full membership - continued:

2008/10/15:04 Motion - (Penney/Nolder) Tri-City Covenant Church, Sommersworth, NH to be admitted as a member congregation. Representatives Tom Clark and Paul Edgar were questioned. The motion carried without opposition.

2008/10/15:05 Motion - (Evans/Young) Christ the King Church, New Era, MI to be admitted as a member congregation. Representative Jeff Swanson was questioned. The motion carried without opposition.

2008/10/15:06 Motion - (Lusk/Hurt) Saint Mark Reformed Church, Nashville TN to be admitted as a member congregation. Representative Joe Thacker was questioned. The motion carried without opposition.

Moderator Strawbridge administered the vows of membership to these churches and invited their representatives to take places at the table.

Oath for New Member Churches and Presbytery

a. Do you, with all the officers of your church, commit yourselves in the sight of God and before Christ Jesus to fight the good fight of faith, to lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed the good confession before many witnesses?

b. Do you, with all the officers of your church, sincerely receive and adopt the Doctrinal Standards of this Confederation, subscribing to those standards with honesty and in full submission to the Word of God, which is the only infallible rule of faith and practice?

c. Do you, with all the officers of your church, take heed unto yourself, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made you presbyter, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood?

d. Do you, with all the officers of your church, commit yourselves in faithfulness to the churches in this Confederation: to keep with them the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, to pray for them, to comfort them, to encourage them, to admonish them, and to rule with them in accordance with the Constitution of this Confederation and in full submission to the Word of God?

e. For Members: Together with all the officers of our churches, we receive you and welcome you, our brethren, into membership in this Confederation. To you we commit our blessings, our prayers, and the right hand of fellowship as you join with us in the rule of the church.

Brian Nolder offered a prayer for the new member churches.

Candidates Churches

2008/10/15:07 Motion - (Bostrom/Evans) Covenant Christian Church, Greenville, MI: Motion to extend their status as a candidate church one year The motion carried without opposition.

2008/10/15:08 Motion - (Shade/Sorey) Christ Covenant Church – Chicago: Motion to seat as candidate church. The motion carried without opposition.

2008/10/15:09 Motion - (Sauder/Sproul) Tyumen Church in Russia: Motion to seat as candidate church. The motion carried without opposition.

Bishop Loyal Grote and Dr. Curtis Crenshaw of the Reformed Episcopal Church addressed Augustine Presbytery and gave greetings on behalf of the REC.

Mission Reports:

Moderator Strawbridge invited Dan Wilson to address Augustine Presbytery on behalf of Harvest International.

Gene Liechty addressed Augustine Presbytery on behalf of the Missions Committee, discussing briefly the prior day's Council action regarding the definition of "CREC Missionary".

Blake Purcell gave an update on the Russian/Eurasian ministry of Slavic Reformation Society.

Al Stout led in offering prayer for the Russian/Eurasian ministry.

Bogumil Jarmulak gave an update of the Polish/Hungarian ministry.

Blake Purcell led in offering prayer for the Russian/Eurasian ministry

Examination Committee Reports:

Pat Hurd: Todd Davis – The committee recommends that Heritage Covenant Church, Weatherford proceed with ordination contingent upon some issues to be addressed with that session.

Jeff Swanson: Gene Franklin – The committee recommends that Christ the King Church, Ferry/New Era proceed with ordination, and commends him for service.

Craig Beaton: Gene Liechty – The committee recommends that Holy Trinity Reformed Evangelical Church, Greer proceed with ordination, and expresses that he did a fine job on written and oral.

Steven Wedgeworth : Rich Lusk – The committee sustains the examination and recommends that Immanuel Presbyterian proceed with ordination. The committee recommends that he do the Greyfriars Bible Grammar program.

Break: 10:15 – 10:30

Moderator Strawbridge delivered his report to Augustine Presbytery noting that serve the Presbytery in that he attended Anselm Presbytery as visiting delegate, served on the Ecclesial Committee, advised a number of churches on startups, joining, finding pastors, reconciliation, etc. Moderator Strawbridge thanked Moderator Pro Tempore Eric Sauder for help with arranging the examination committees.

Brian Nolder publicly thanked Moderator Strawbridge for coming to the meeting for his departure from the OPC.

Gene Liechty solicited thanks for Moderator Strawbridge's service. Applause ensued.

Council Moderator, Randy Booth Reported that he had no actions which required being voted upon. He spent the the year assisting churches and pastors in their matters of concern. He offered commendation to Tom Brainerd, who will be available until year end to assist in CREC matters. He noted the matter of amending the creeds to Council: Thirty-Nine Articles, Second Helvetic Confession, and Athanasian Creed. The assembly agreed to advance these creeds to the Council.

Moderator Strawbridge brought to the Assembly the question of the name change of the CREC, which was referred to the presbyteries for a hearing by the Council. Discussion on this issue ensued.

2008/10/15:10 Motion - (Booth/Hurt) That Augustine Presbytery refer the following to Council: "That we change the name of the Confederation of Reformed Evangelical Churches."

2008/10/15:11 Motion (MNC) - (Nolder/Doskey) Table the main motion. Motion not carried.

2008/10/15:12 Motion (Hurt/[other]) Move the previous question: no dissent.

2008/10/15:13 Motion - [That Augustine Presbytery refer the following to Council: "That we change the name of the Confederation of Reformed Evangelical Churches."] Main motion carried.

2008/10/15:14 Motion (MNC) - (Nolder/Young) That Augustine Presbytery request the Council to establish a committee to consider changes to the name of the Confederation of Reformed Evangelical Churches to report back to the presbyteries in two years . . . Amendment: (Schneider/Doskey) Amend main motion by changing the period of reporting to one year. Main Motion not carried.

2008/10/15:15 Motion - (Davis/Detweiler) That Council authorize an ad hoc committee charged with organizing a missions conference to occur immediately following the 2011 meeting of Council and further charged with formulating constitutional language addressing all international churches. The motion carried without opposition.

Members assigned:

Bogumil Jarmulak
Ralph Smith

Blake Purcell
Sebastian Smolarz
Oleg Volkov
Todd Davis
Garry Vanderveen
John Stoos
Doug Jones

The delegates took a poll on the various names put forward:

| Name | Number |
|---------------|--------|
| Communion | 10 |
| Council | 13 |
| Confederation | 8 |
| Other | 10 |

Motion to adjourn carried without opposition.