

**Minutes of Athanasius Presbytery**  
**Galen Sorey, Minister of Presbytery**  
**Alan Stout, Clerk of Presbytery**  
**Communion of Reformed Evangelical Churches**  
**7 November 2013**  
**San Destin, Florida**

**Churches and Members of Presbytery Represented:**

Christ Presbyterian Church, Baton Rouge LA: Galen Sorey, Denny Dufour  
Christ Church, Branchville AL: Ted Phillips and Keith Diamond  
Christ Church of the Good Shepherd: Kirk Downey  
Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Clinton MS: Mickey Schneider, Steven Wedgeworth in attendance  
Providence Church, Pensacola FL: Uri Brito and Alan Stout,  
Salem Reformed Church, Rome GA: George Crocker, Dr. Eddie Johnson  
St. Mark Reformed Church, Nashville TN: Joe Thacker  
Trinity Presbyterian Church, Birmingham AL: Rich Lusk, Jimmy Gill  
Trinity Presbyterian Church, Valparaiso FL: Erik Stoer, Gregg Perry, Michael Mosley, Ben Rosell

Church not represented:

Holy Trinity Reformed Evangelical Church, Greenville SC: Craig Beaton

I. Morning

- a. Invocation. Uri Brito leads in a Psalm of praise and petition.
- b. Exhortation by Doug Wilson (II Cor. 3-4) – Ministers and elders are encouraged not to lose heart. That we are called to preach the gospel to people who are at times stone cold. We should be very bold, and not lose heart, Paul says. Even though he is addressing very difficult situations. We do this because we live in light of a New Creation (4:6). (3:15, 16) there are veils over our eyes that must be lifted. When we are converted the veils are lifted. Moses had to veil his face, yet Christ does not. We are encouraged to know the glory of God in the face of Jesus. Christ's face is unveiled yet the faces of the people are veiled to the Gospel. Both of these are true.

We should long for a ministry that is unveiled, revealed in the face of Christ. When Paul first sees the Glory of the Lord, he sees it in Stephen's face and he hates it. The second time he sees the glory of the Lord he loves it and becomes obedient. We are after this unveiledness.

We must worship an unveiled Jesus and we must be unveiled

We must remove the veil of stupor. 2 Tim 2:25

Because this is the nature of our ministry we should be encouraged

- c. Galen Sorey calls the meeting to order.

II. Galen Sorey Calls for the quorum. Established with the elders listed above

III. Visitors and Guests announced:

Pastor Brandon Warr

Rob Hadding and Paul Lambert, Christ Church Pace, FL.

Jim Hunter, Member Providence (Pursuing ordination in the CREC)

Hermon Gunter, Ruling Elder Grace Presbyterian Church, Covenant First Presbyterian Lives in Live Oak, FL  
Steve Hemeke

IV. Motions and Church reports:

Motion 13/07/11:01 to seat the visitors and allow them to speak within Regular business (Erik Stoer, with Second. Carried, 14-0)

Motion 13/07/11:02 to accept the agenda as printed: (Eddie Johnson, second: Carried, 14-0)  
(No updates to registry)

Update on Craig Beaton given by Galen Sorey. Asks that the presbytery be in prayer for the Church and particularly Craig and his call at

Motion 13/07/11:03 To have the Churches of A. Pres. be in prayer for Craig and consider supporting them financially (Mickey Schneider, second carried 14-0)

Branchville – Change in leadership. Elder Rich Vest is stepping down due to health concerns. No immediate plans to replace him. God has been good to them. Galen Sorey prays for them.

Good Shepherd – Kirk – Became a member Church last Spring. Joe Pressley and Mark ? Elders. No deacons at present, though they hope to have some soon. About 100 folks on Sunday, 11 member families and 3 or 4 regular visiting families. Struggling to visit each family as elders. That is becoming difficult as the Church grows. Going to establish an inquirer's class. Still have not called a pastor, but perhaps next summer. Our desire if to have a pastor full time. We want to have a year and a half of salary in the bank. Jeremy Sexton is on the short list. Seek assistance in setting a salary etc. as we move forward. Use the lectionary from the Prayer Book.

Providence – (see attached report) Jimmy Gill prays

Emmanuel Presbyterian - (Update on Mickey's health. He is doing well, doctors pleased with his progress) He reports that the Church at Emmanuel will be ordaining new elders, Steven is being officially considered. Purchasing a building. Possibly move in next year. Bill Grete is still the only elder, he is absent due to surgery. Joe Thacker prays

(Break)

Salem Reformed Church – Struggling. 25 or 30 people attending on Sunday. Almost closed down a couple of times, but by God's grace we are still there. Financial difficulties particularly. One good report is that we have one young man who looks to be qualified for eldership. I have a letter writing ministry to prisoners in one of the county jails. George supports two missionaries in Uganda and Tanzania. Please pray for our unity. Being small we know each other's needs. I am working part time. Please pray for the son of one of our members, Jacob. He claims to be a Christian, but does not attend Church. I have been working with him. Dr. Johnson mentions the music, including the pianist and what a blessing it is to have one of her caliber. Ben Rossel Prays.

St Mark Reformed Church – Joe Thacker (see attached report), We have begun monthly parish meetings. We are spread out geographically. Fellowship, singing and prayer. Started a discussion of Nate Wilson's new book Death by Living. Trained musicians, the Bowmans have really blessed our congregation. Congregation continues to grow (3 births this year) 12 member families (65% children) Scheduled to have Rob Rayburn next year as part of our conference series.

Tim Gallant is now in the states, but not able to work. The Gallants may move back to Canada as Christie's ex-husband has a change of heart about letting his children move. Training men for the diaconate. Thankful for the gifts that God has given us. Developing a website that will speak into the Nashville community about worship. There are many in the congregation who are living paycheck to paycheck and that has caused some financial difficulty. Please pray that we receive new members. Pray for our elder David who is taking a leave of absence down for personal reasons. We will not have a session at that point. Please pray for wisdom as we move forward. Uri prays

Trinity at Birmingham – Jimmy Gill We have had a very good year. All Saints Festival. Tried a new thing. Jeopardy game on Characters in Church History using the SS material we have used this year. Discovered some hidden talents. Changes in leadership. We added a ruler elder, making four elders on the session now. I was installed as associate minister. Peter Leithart installed as Church Teacher (staff member, but not on session) and heads Trinity House. One Elder, David ?, steps down and moves membership to an Episcopal Church in Birmingham. Trinity house has gotten underway. First class in August. Next term is Advent Term then another in March. Peter will be teaching some local classes. Goal is to have a yearlong resident program by 2015. Peter is currently ¼ time at NSA. They are a blessing to the congregation, but he is traveling a lot. We have had a young adult Bible Study on Monday nights at Rich's home. Home fellowship groups that meet once a month. Women's Bible Study going well. Methodist Church operates a home repair ministry and we have joined with an Anglican Church to participate in this labor and have led our youth to help in the community. We desire to put our money toward the JEEP ministry. We have been thinking about including the Alliance Defense Fund document that every Church should have clear statements on marriage and sexuality. Also putting together a Child protection policy will send that out to the Athanasius Presbytery List. Erik Stoer Prays

Trinity Valpariso Ben Rossell. (see the attached report) We have had a turnover in some of our leadership and in our membership. Quite a bit of the turnover has been of the retirement and military sort. We have a great legacy in having Mickey attached to our Church. Two baptisms of late. 32 Covenant families and 12 Singles. Numbers fluctuate during the Summer. We have lost two elders (Mickey and Jonathon Sutton), 4 currently on session, including the minister. 4 new deacons. It is a big change for me to be part of a Church with its own building. That is a blessing, but it a deal of work, as experienced when mold was discovered in a wall that is only 7 years old. The company that built the building are helpful providing half the funds to repair. Additional blessings. George Crocker prays.

Motion 13/07/11:04 Move to accept the minutes (14-0, carried)

Mission Church Reports:

Lakeland – Uri Brito delivers. Church has grown, around 40 people on Sundays, 30 members. Many strong personalities have made calling a pastor difficult. They have a lack of servant attitude in the Congregation. The elders have stepped up and served and a call for others to serve have gone largely

unheeded. They are going to take a few weeks off and then come back together and see if they wish to continue as a Church. There has recently been some news of reconciliation and many are hopeful that after this time off they will be dedicated to review.

Break for lunch (1 hour)

Motion 13/07/11:05 Allow Steven Wedgeworth to speak (14-0, carried)

Report from the Committee for Covenant First Presbyterian Church Live Oak. Steven Wedgeworth Chairman (see attached). Live Oak is not going to be a typical situation. Presented a report and a paper on the history of Sodality.

Old Business:

Herman Gunter. Very grateful for the help of Athanasius Presbytery in helping work through the situation at Live Oak.

Providence removes itself from sponsorship.

New Business,

Motion 13/07/11:06 Recommended language to be placed in the BoP of the Athanasius Presbytery from the motion passed at our November 2012 meeting:

Local churches wishing to call previously unordained men to serve as pastors in their churches shall ordinarily have these candidates successfully complete the presbytery ordination exam process (see the CREC BoP Art. XI.2 and Appendix B) before having them move to the area and assume pastoral duties." (14-0, carried)

Motion 13/07/11:07 Move to receive Christ Church as a member Church in Athanasius Presbytery. Uri Brito/second

Questions posed:

What would your affiliation be with respect to the Southern Baptists?

What is your confession of faith?

Election of new Presiding Minister and Minister Pro Tem of Athanasius Presbytery  
Call for nominations:

Current nominations:

Rich Lusk

No Others

Rich Lusk Elected at PMoP

Election of Minister Pro Tem

Current nominations:

Uri Brito

No Others

Uri Brito Elected as Minister Pro Tem

Election of delegates to 2014 Council Meeting

Current nominations:

Uri Brito

Joe Thacker - Withdraws

Rich Lusk and Uri Brito will be delegates to Council in 2014

March Presbytery – Where? Trinity Presbyterian Church Birmingham, AL

Motion 13/07/11:8 Move to adjourn, (11-0, carried)