

Minutes of Athanasius Presbytery
Rich Lusk, Minister of Presbytery
Alan Stout, Clerk of Presbytery
Communion of Reformed Evangelical Churches
9 - 10 November 2016
Pace, Florida

Churches and Members of Presbytery Represented:)

Christ Church, Branchville AL - Ted Phillips and Keith Diamond
Christ Church, Pace, FL - Rob Hadding,
Christ Church, Lakeland, FL - Steven Wedgeworth
Christ Presbyterian Church, Baton Rouge - Galen Sorrey Denny Dufour
Holy Trinity Reformed Evangelical Church, Greenville SC - Eddie Field
Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Clinton MS - Jay Barfield, Mark Samford
Providence Church, Pensacola FL - Al Stout Uri Brito
Redeemer Church Huntsville, AL - Steve Bowman
Salem Reformed Church, Rome GA - George Crocker, Eddie Johnston
St. Mark Reformed Church, Nashville TN - Joe Thacker
Trinity Presbyterian Church, Birmingham AL - Jimmy Gill Gilbert Douglas (Rich Lusk – Presiding Minister) (Guests: Dave Shaw and Jacob Hanby Pastoral interns, Peter Leithart transfer candidate)
Trinity Presbyterian Church, Valparaiso, FL Ben Rossell (Elder Gregg Parry seated on November 10th) (guests: Barry Wells - AF Chaplain, Jossiah Alders - Prison Chaplain, Mickey Schneider - Pastor Emeritus)

Church not represented:

Church of the Good Shepherd, North Augusta, SC Jeremy Sexton

Mission Church:

Covenant First Presbyterian Church in Live Oak, FL (Herman Gunter)
Covenant Community Mission, Andrews, SC (Jeff Trexler)
Igreja de Cristo, Porto Alegre, Brazil (sponsored by Providence) - Not Present

Visiting churches:

Covenant First Presbyterian, Live Oak, Pastor Randy Wilding
Christ Redeemer, Live Oak, Ruling Elders Herman Gunter and Herman Gunter IV

Wednesday 09 November 2016

- I. Called to order.
 - a. Quorum established with the presbyters listed above.
 - b. Invocation. Rich Lusk
- II. Uri Brito leads in Song (Psalm 2)
- III. Motion 16/11/09:01 Motion to seat visitors and allow visitors to speak on the floor of Presbytery. Seconded. Carried 18-0
- IV. Transfer Examination of Rev. Peter Leithart.
 - a. Peter introduces himself. Explains why he is transferring into the CREC from the PCA.
 - b. Exceptions to Trinity's Confessions: Paedocommunion, certain aspects of the Sabbath, the Pope being the anti-Christ. "I believe that the office of the pope could be considered 'anti-christ' but not the man." Exception to the language of the covenant of works. "I probably need to review the section on Justification, not that I disagree with the way it is narrowly defined."
 - c. Robust questions from the floor.
 - d. Motion 16/11/09:02 Motion to sustain his exam. Seconded. Carried 18-0

- V. Motion 16/11/09:03 Motion to accept the agenda as modified by the Presiding Minister (order of events). Seconded, Carried 18-0 (Appendix A)
- VI. Church Reports: (Appendix B - Reserved for Presbyters)
- VII. Motion 16/11/09:04 Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Carried 18-0

Thursday 10 November 9:10AM

- VIII. Presbytery called to Order
 - a. Establishment of quorum with the Presbyters listed above.
 - b. Invocation by Rich Lusk
- IX. Uri Brito leads in a hymn: A Mighty Fortress is Our God
- X. Scriptural Exhortation by Pastor Jay Barfield (Galatians 4): "We need to be gracious in our exhortations."
- XI. Updates on mission Churches.
 - a. Redeemer Presbyterian Herman Gunter – (Appendix C - Reserved for Presbyters)
 - b. Igreja de Cristo, Porto Alegre, Brazil. 1 year anniversary. Worship is beginning to look like a typical CREC worship. Robust worship. Encouraged in their unity and they have grown over the year. They had about 15 when Uri was there in 2015 they have doubled in size. They are in a very pagan area of Brazil. They are reaching out to the community hosting men's group in a local pub. Several scientific works have been translated into Portuguese and they have been helpful in engaging a local atheist who attends their worship, but does not believe. They have thrived with hospitality. They have a monthly Brunch and Psalm Sing. Three in leadership. Two deacons, who would like to become ministers, one elder who would remain as a ruling elder. 2017 the deacons are preparing to be examined for ministry.
 - c. Motion 16/11/09:05 Move to write letters to all our mission Churches letting them know we have prayed for them. Seconded. Carried 19-0
 - d. Steven Wedgworth prays for them.
- XII. Old Business
 - a. Motion 16/11/09:06 Move to approve the Spring 2016 minutes, modified to remove narrative from Church reports. Seconded. Carried 19-0
- XIII. New Business:
 - a. CREC Missions Committee report. Discussion on Church planting. Should we have a more structured/formal church planting organization? Fundraising needs to be considered. There seems to be interest. Presiding Minister will seek volunteers for a committee to look into this for Athanasius
 - b. CREC Same Sex Marriage report. Presiding Minister updates. Churches should consider the need for legal protections.
 - c. Ministry Safe Presentation at 2017 Council report. Presiding Minister has had very good interactions with the organization. Uri Brito delivers an overview of the training offered in Anselm Presbytery by Ministry Safe. He is confident in the work that they do and the counsel provide to Churches.
 - d. Motion 16/11/09:07 Move to invite Ministry Safe to speak to and train Athanasius Presbytery at CREC General Council. Seconded. Carried 19-0

Break

- XIV. Reconvene. Quorum established with the Presbyters listed above
 - a. PM Wilson's proposed polity revisions. Discussion over these issues.
 - i. Motion 16/11/09:08 Move that Athanasius Presbytery does not recognize the PMs standing to make changes to the CRECs governing documents. Seconded. Carried. 17-2
 - b. Motion 16/11/09:09 Motion to form a committee to propose polity revisions. Seconded. Carried 19-0. Proposed Presbytery Polity revisions and local church polity suggestions. Presiding Minister leads discussion on the floor. PM is looking for volunteers to be a part of a committee that will look at polity change recommendations. Committee to be established by PM.
 - c. Planning committee for 2017 council meeting. Ben Russell gives an overview of where we stand with preparations. Dates are firm. We have reserved the meeting rooms and started the process of blocking rooms off for use by council. Trinity, Valpariso is taking the lead in most of this work. The committee will be sending out updates after the New Year.
 - d. Elect New Presiding Minister and Pro Tem
 - i. Presiding Minister: One nomination, Rich Lusk
 - ii. Presiding Minister Pro Tem: One nomination, Rob Hadding
 - iii. Motion 16/11/09:10 Move that nominations be closed. Seconded. Carried 19-0
 - iv. Motion 16/11/09:11 Move that those nominated be elected by acclamation. Seconded. Carried 19-0
- XV. Elect Delegate for council.
 - a. Floor is open to nominations to those who will represent Athanasius at the 2017 General Council
 - i. Rob Hadding
 - ii. Steven Wedgeworth.
 - iii. Motion 16/11/09:12 Move that those nominated be elected by acclamation. Seconded. Carried 19-0
- XVI. Next meeting of Presbytery March 13th and 14th Trinity Presbyterian Church, Birmingham.
- XVII. Motion 16/11/09:13. Move to adjourn. Seconded. Carried 19-0

Submitted by Al Stout, Clerk