

MINUTES OF THE 2019 STATED MEETING

of

ANSELM PRESBYTERY



COMMUNION OF REFORMED
EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

Burgas, Bulgaria
October 9-10, 2019

ANSELM 2019

Annual Stated Meeting of Anselm Presbytery (Communion of Reformed Evangelical Churches)

October 9-10, 2019

Burgas, Bulgaria

Host church: Presbyterian Reformed Church (Pastor Yavor Rusinov)

Presiding Minister – Pastor David Hatcher (Trinity Church – Kirkland, WA)

Wednesday, October 9

I. Invocation by Pastor Yavor Rusinov – 8:44am

Meeting was called to order by PM Dave Hatcher at 8:44am

II. Psalm Singing

III. Roll Call and Quorum Call

1. Christ Church Santa Clarita – Santa Clarita, CA
Garrett Crow, Andrew Richardson (two delegates)
2. Christ Covenant Church – Rogue River, OR
(absent)
3. Christ the King Church – Eugene, OR
(absent)
4. Christian Evangelical Reformed Church Testament of Grace– Mykolaiv, Ukraine
(absent)
5. Church of the King, Sacramento, CA
(absent)
6. Covenant Bible Church – Chugiak, AK
Gerald Allsup (one delegate)
7. Emmanuel Church – Bothell, WA
Jerry Owen (one delegate)
8. Evangelical Reformed Church – Mogilev, Belarus,
(absent)

9. Evangelical Reformed Church – Poznan, Poland
Bogumil Jarmulak, Gniewomir Giec (2 delegates)
10. Evangelical Reformed Church – Wroclaw, Poland
Marek Kmiec, Sebastian Smolarz (2 delegates)
11. God’s Covenant Reformed Evangelical Church – Rivne, Ukraine,
Serhii Terentiev, (one delegate)
12. Holy Trinity Reformed Church – Dunayevtsy, Ukraine,
Oleksandr Pavlyuk (one delegate)
13. Mitaka Evangelical Church – Tokyo, Japan
Ben Zedek Smith (one delegate)
14. Presbyterian Reformed Church – Burgas, Bulgaria
Yavor Rusinov (one delegate)
15. Providence Reformed Church – Grand Junction, CO
(absent)
16. Redeemer Church – Lynnwood, WA
Michael Kloss, Ron Coverdale (2 delegates)
17. Reformation Covenant Church – Oregon City, OR
Gary Barnard, Bo Cogbill (2 delegates)
18. Reformed Church of Christ the Savior – Rivne, Ukraine,
Oleksandr Orlov-Koshchavka (one delegate)
19. Trinity Church – Kirkland, WA
Brett Baker, Joe Hyink (2 delegates)
20. Trinity Covenant Church – Santa Cruz, CA
Troy Martin (one delegate)

PM Dave Hatcher determined that 14 out of 20 member churches were present.

A quorum was established.

IV. Introduction of Mission Churches, Candidate Churches, and Guests

Mission Churches

1. Atilla Haidju from Trinity Evangelical Church (formerly Evangelical Reformed Church) of Budapest, Diósd, Hungary Mission church of Evangelical Reformed Church, Poznan
2. Ihor Lischchinsky from Reformed Church of the Trinity Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine
3. Pawel Bartosik from Evangelical Reformed Church of Gdansk, Poland

Candidate Churches

4. Volodymr Yakubovsky, Reformed Church of St. Andrew of Pidhaychyky, Ukraine

Guests

5. Oleksandr Orlov-Koshchavka Jr, translator for Anselm Presbytery, deacon of Reformed Church of Christ the Savior of Rivne, Ukraine
6. Zach Browning from Covenant Bible Church, Chugiak AK
7. Tyler Hatcher from Trinity Church, Kirkland WA
8. Tanya Lishchinska from Reformed Church of the Trinity, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine
9. Yavor Rusinov Jr, son of Yavor Rusinov, from Presbyterian Reformed Church, Burgas, Bulgaria
10. Lauren Shearer, secretary for Anselm Presbytery, from Reformation Covenant Church in Oregon City, OR

V. Approval of Minutes 2018.

Motion - Brett Baker moved to approve the 2018 Anselm Presbytery minutes. Jerry Owen seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Exhortation – Pastor Jerry Owen 8:55 AM

VII. Church Reports – same list as above (church name, location).

1. Christ Church Santa Clarita – Santa Clarita, CA
2. Christ Covenant Church, Rogue River, OR – (absent)
3. Christ the King Church, Eugene, OR - (absent)
4. Christian Evangelical Reformed Church Testament of Grace – Mykolaiv, Ukraine (absent)
5. Church of the King, Sacramento, CA (absent)
6. Covenant Bible Church – Chugiak, AK
7. Emmanuel Church – Bothell, WA
8. Evangelical Reformed Church – Mogilev, Belarus (absent)
9. Evangelical Reformed Church – Poznan, Poland
10. Evangelical Reformed Church – Wroclaw, Poland
11. God’s Covenant Reformed Evangelical Church – Rivne, Ukraine
12. Holy Trinity Reformed Church – Dunayevtsy, Ukraine
13. Mitaka Evangelical Church – Tokyo, Japan
14. Presbyterian Reformed Church – Burgas, Bulgaria
15. Providence Reformed Church – Grand Junction, CO (absent)
16. Redeemer Church – Lynnwood, WA

17. Reformation Covenant Church – Oregon City, OR
18. Reformed Church of Christ the Savior (formerly Rivne Biblical Church) – Rivne, Ukraine
19. Trinity Church – Kirkland, WA
20. Trinity Covenant Church – Santa Cruz, CA

Recess: 10:10 am

Meeting called to order: 10:20 am

VIII. Mission Church Reports

1. Covenant Reformed Church, Fairbanks, AK Mission church of Covenant Bible Church, Chugiak, AK (absent)
2. Trinity Evangelical Church (formerly Evangelical Reformed Church) of Budapest, Diósd, Hungary Mission church of Evangelical Reformed Church, Poznan (Attila Haidju, one delegate)
3. Evangelical Reformed Church, Gdansk, Poland Mission church of Evangelical Reformed Church, Wroclaw (Pawel Bartosik, one delegate)

Motion - Marek Kmiec moved to bring Evangelical Reformed Church, Gdansk, Poland, into full membership. Brett Baker seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Pawel Bartosik took the vows of membership.

4. Grace Covenant Church - Gibsons, BC Mission church of Redeemer Church, Lynnwood, WA (absent) Michael Kloss gave church report.
5. Reformed Church of Ivano-Frankivsk, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine Mission church of Reformed Church of Christ the Savior, Rivne, Ukraine (Ihor Lishchinsky, one delegate)
6. Trinity Church East Bay, Pleasanton, CA Mission church of Christ Church Santa Clarita, Santa Clarita, CA (Gabe Wetmore, one delegate)

Motion - Andrew Richardson moved to bring Trinity Church East Bay into full membership. Bogumil Jarmulak seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Gabe Wetmore took the vows of membership.

IX. Introduction of the church and ministry: Rev. Arslan Ul-Haq of the Sulej Reformed Church of Pakistan (Garret Crow)

Garret Crow presented an introduction and letter from Rev. Arslan Ul-Haq.

X. Anselm PM Report (Pastor Hatcher) – Appendix A

PM Dave Hatcher presented the Anselm PM report and asked for the two ordination committees to be ratified by the presbytery. The report was received by the presbytery.

Motion - Garret Crow moved to ratify the actions of the PM. Brett Baker seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Dismiss for Lunch: 12:01 pm

Meeting called to order: 1:51 pm

I. Ordination Exams

PM Dave Hatcher invited Tyler Hatcher of Trinity Church, Kirkland, WA to come forward for examination. Following the committee examination, questions were opened to the floor.

Executive session was called for deliberation.

Executive session voted unanimously to recommend Tyler Hatcher to Trinity Church for ordination.

Recess: 3:45pm

Meeting called to order: 3:55pm

Andrew Richardson invited Michael Kloss of Emmanuel Church, Lynnwood, WA to come forward for examination. Following the committee examination, questions were opened to the floor.

Executive session was called for deliberation.

Executive session voted unanimously to recommend Michael Kloss to Emmanuel Church for ordination.

Dismiss for Dinner: 5:49pm

Thursday, October 10th – 9AM

PM Dave Hatcher called the meeting to order at 9:08AM

XI. Psalm Sing and Prayer

XII. Examination of Bo Cogbill

Dave Hatcher invited Bo Cogbill and Gary Barnard to introduce Bo Cogbill.

Report on Bo Cogbill's background. Questions were opened to the floor.

Motion - Jerry Owen moved to receive Bo Cogbill into the CREC as an ordained minister, previously ordained in Christ Covenant Church of Mesquite, Texas. Bogumil Jarmulak seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

XIII. Provisional Presbytery Report – Bogumil Jarmulak

Bogumil Jarmulak summarized his provisional presbytery report and gave an update on the provisional presbytery meeting earlier this week. Dave Hatcher opened it up to the floor for discussion.

Following discussion, Bogumil Jarmulak suggested the possibility of waiting another three years for any of a number of reasons. There was no strong vocal consensus to do so.

Dave Hatcher suggested to take a poll to gauge the feelings of the presbytery on splitting.

Bogumil Jarmulak suggested that the provisional presbytery should meet for two or three days to discuss fears and questions about proceeding with the provisional presbytery.

Dave Hatcher asked if there was anybody here who was opposed to starting a new presbytery in 2020.

Oleksandr Orlov-Koshchavka opposed until issues resolved. No specific "issues" or charges were brought up on the floor. Dave Hatcher exhorted the delegates to make sure there were no unresolved offenses between elders or any churches.

Dave Hatcher asked for a poll to gauge who was enthusiastic about starting a European presbytery. 17/25 delegates polled were enthusiastic.

Recess: 10:45am

Meeting called to order: 10:55am

XIV. Consideration of New Member Church

1. Reformed Church of St. Andrew – Pidhaychyky, Ukraine Candidate church sponsored by Reformed Church of Christ the Savior, Rivne, Ukraine.

Motion - Oleksandr Orlov-Koshchavka moved to bring the Reformed Church of St. Andrew into full membership. Motion seconded by Michael Kloss.

Motion passed with one abstention.

Volodymyr Yakubovsky took the vows of membership.

XV. Report from Ordination Committee (on Hatcher and Kloss)

1. Tyler Hatcher

Jerry Owen for the committee recommends to Trinity Church that Tyler Hatcher be ordained.

2. Michael Kloss

Andrew Richardson for the committee recommends to Redeemer Church that Michael Kloss be ordained with reservation: recommendations were given on the floor and in writing to the session of Redeemer Church to have Michael pursue study in biblical languages along with other recommended reading.

XVI. Discussion Request - Reformed Church of Christ the Savior – Rivne, Ukraine (Oleksandr Orlov-Koshchavka)

1. Ukraine Churches have the opportunity to join with several Lutheran churches in forming (reviving) an ecumenical fellowship/denomination in Ukraine. There are possible pros and cons being discussed and the churches seek the counsel of the Presbytery.

Dave Hatcher invited Oleksandr Orlov-Koshchavka to give a brief overview of this opportunity.

Questions were opened to the floor.

Following discussion, Dave Hatcher summarized the view of the presbytery: the presbytery advises the Ukrainian churches to move slowly, considering the options and red flags present in the opportunity.

Dismiss for lunch: 11:51AM

Meeting called to order: 1:28pm

XVII. A - Proposals from Evangelical Reformed Church in Poznan, Poland

Motion- Bogumil Jarmulak moved to send the following proposal to the Constitutional Revision Committee. Seconded by Jerry Owen.

1. Add the following to BOP Art. III.2: Every church, before it is received as a new member church, must present its constitution to the presbytery at least a month before the scheduled meeting of the presbytery at which it is to be received as a new member.
 - i. Rationale: A look at the church's constitution will provide a better knowledge of the church to be received as a new member.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion - Bogumil Jarmulak moved to send the following proposal to the Constitutional Revision Committee. Gary Barnard seconded.

2. Add the following to Constitution Art. III.D.1: e) Each member church must include in its governing documents the following provision: "If a local church wants to remove a pastor from the office it should inform the Presiding Minister of Presbytery about its intentions and seek his advice at least one month in advance. In the meantime, the pastor may be suspended or put on a leave of absence in accordance with the provisions of the church's constitution."
 - i. Rationale: Removing a pastor from the office is a serious business. Therefore, it seems to be wise to seek advice from the PM before the final decision is made. Note that it is only advice, and not approval. The PM can help the local church to make a wise decision and to make it wisely.

Motion - Following discussion, Bogumil Jarmulak **moved to amend** the proposal to the following, and to send the amended proposal to the Constitutional Revision Committee. Andrew Richardson seconded.

1. Add the following to Constitution Art. III. D.1: e) The session of elders of each CREC church shall notify the Presiding Minister of Presbytery under the following circumstances: (...) Before dismissing a (pastor) or elder or calling for his resignation. [In the case of dismissal of a minister (pastor), the notification shall include the reason for the dismissal. It shall be done not later than one month in advance. The local church

session shall also seek the advice of the Presiding Minister in this matter. In the meantime, the pastor may be suspended or put on a leave of absence in accordance with the provisions of the local church's constitution.]

Motion to amend proposal passed without objection.

Motion passed. One abstention.

Motion - Bogumil Jarmulak moved to send the following proposal to the Constitutional Revision Committee. Michael Kloss seconded.

3. Add the following to Constitution Art. III.D.1: f) Each local church session must keep minutes of its official meetings.
 - i. Rationale: That seems to be obvious, yet there have been instances when sessions of local churches did not keep minutes of their official meetings. Minutes seem of special importance when conflicts or disagreements arise.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion - Bogumil Jarmulak moved to send the following proposal to the Constitutional Revision Committee. Andrew Richardson seconded.

4. Add the following to Constitution Art. IV.A.2: In a case of a prolonged conflict within a local church session the Presiding Minister of Presbytery acting in agreement with the Presiding Minister pro tempore of Presbytery, and the Presiding Minister of Council can install an elder pro tempore as a member of the session to help the session resolve its internal strife. Such an elder pro tempore may stay a member of the session for the maximal period of one year. Before an elder pro tempore is installed in such a way, mediation between the members of the session is strongly advised.
 - i. Rationale: It seems that it is better to help resolve a conflict at an earlier stage rather than deal with its ugly results afterward. Sometimes mediation alone is not

enough to help solve deep conflicts. The presence of an additional elder can change the dynamics within the session for better and help find a way out of the conflict. (This would require a change of numbering of the whole section IV.A.2.)

Motion failed. 1 in favor, 15 opposed, 4 abstentions.

Motion - Bogumil Jarmulak moved to send the following proposal to the Constitutional Revision Committee. Gary Barnard seconded.

5. Add the following to Constitution Art. IV.A.2: Presbytery may officially request that a local church remove its pastor or elder from the office in case of flagrant sinful behavior or a gross violation of the CREC rules. 2/3 votes are required from presbytery.
 - i. Rationale: This would add an additional step in disciplining a runaway pastor between admonishing him and removing the whole church. That would serve as a warning to the local church before a more drastic and final decision is made (removing the whole church from CREC). (This would require a change of numbering of the whole section IV.A.2.)

Motion passed. 12 in favor, 4 opposed, 4 abstentions.

Recess: 2:45pm

Meeting called to order: 2:57pm

Motion - Bogumil Jarmulak moved to send the following proposal to the Constitutional Revision Committee. Gabe Wetmore seconded.

6. Add the following to Constitution Art. IV.B.2: The Presiding Minister of Presbytery is simultaneously the presbytery's delegate to the Council unless he opts out. In such a case, another delegate is elected by the presbytery in his stead.

- i. Rationale: This is the usual custom of our presbyteries. So, it would only be a formal recognition of an existing practice. Besides, a PM of Presbytery is usually the person enjoying the trust of the presbytery and also the person who knows the churches in the presbytery the best. Both can be very helpful in representing the presbytery at a council meeting

Following discussion, **Bogumil Jarmulak requested to withdraw the motion. Motion was withdrawn with no objections.**

Motion - Bogumil Jarmulak moved to send the following proposal to the Constitutional Revision Committee. Andrew Richardson seconded.

7. Change Constitution Art. IV.C.5:

Current reading: "Each Presiding Minister must be concurrently serving as a member of the local session. If a Presiding Minister ceases to serve in such a local office, then his term as Presiding Minister ceases at that time. Before his term is completed, a Presiding Minister may resign his position, or he may be removed by a three-fourths vote of the assembly."

Change to: "Each Presiding Minister must be concurrently serving as a member of the local session or be a retired CREC minister and a member of a local CREC church in good standing. If a Presiding Minister ceases to serve in such a local office, then his term as Presiding Minister ceases at that time. This provision does not apply in a case of retirement. Before his term is completed, a Presiding Minister may resign his position, or he may be removed by a three-fourths vote of the assembly."

Rationale: (1) It happens that active ministers or elders are not willing or able to serve as a PM due to their exhaustive responsibilities connected with their local church ministry. The suggested change would make the pool of candidates for PM larger and make it easier to elect a PM who is both able and willing to serve as a PM. (2) The suggested change would also make it possible to use the wisdom of experienced ministers after their retirement.

Motion passed. Two abstentions.

B. Proposal from Emmanuel Church, Bothell, WA

Motion – Jerry Owen moved to send the following proposal to the Constitutional Revision Committee. Troy Martin seconded.

Statement on Officer Qualifications

The CREC affirms the need for all officers to meet the biblical qualifications for office. An elder should be above reproach, the husband of one wife, self-controlled, sober-minded, respectable, given to hospitality, wise, able to teach, patient, temperate in his use of alcohol, peaceable, should lead his home well and have faithful children. Elders should not be quarrelsome, greedy, covetous or immature (1 Tim. 3:1-7, Tit. 1:6-9). A deacon should be honorable, the husband of one wife, wise and cautious in his speech, temperate in his use of alcohol, lead well in his home, not be greedy, and should hold the faith of Christ without reservation (1 Tim. 3:8-10, 12). While acknowledging that if the Lord marked iniquities no one would stand perfect, it is nevertheless important to uphold the qualifications as revealed in Scripture. Ordinarily, excluding exceptional circumstances, an officer whose marriage has failed or whose child is excommunicated will offer his resignation and it will be accepted by his session (1 Tim. 3:4-5, Tit. 1:6). When an officer remains in office after one of these events (or similar), the matter will be referred to the Presiding Minister of presbytery with a brief written description of the reasons in accordance with Article IV.D.2. The presbytery will respond to this report as appropriate. The local session is not judicially bound by the response of presbytery. If the presbytery recommends the officer's resignation and the local session does not abide by the presbytery recommendation, then the presbytery may or may not initiate proceedings according to Article IV.D.5.

Gabe Wetmore **proposed an amendment** to add “in his household” after “whose child” to the sentence beginning “Ordinarily, excluding exceptional circumstances.”

Gabe Wetmore **proposed an amendment** to strike “Ordinarily, excluding exceptional circumstances,” and striking “it will be accepted by.” Change “the matter will be referred to the Presiding Minister of Presbytery” to “the Presiding Minister of Presbytery will be informed.”

Andrew Richardson **proposed an amendment** to strike the sentences beginning from “An elder should be above reproach” to the sentence beginning “While acknowledging that if the Lord.” Amended proposal read as follows:

- The CREC affirms the need for all officers to meet the biblical qualifications for office. (1 Tim. 3:1-7, Tit. 1:6-9). (1 Tim. 3:8-10, 12). While acknowledging that if the Lord marked iniquities no one would stand perfect, it is nevertheless important to uphold the qualifications as revealed in Scripture. An officer whose marriage has failed or whose child in his household is excommunicated will offer his resignation to the session (1 Tim. 3:4-5, Tit. 1:6). When an officer remains in office after one of these events (or similar), the Presiding Minister of Presbytery will be informed with a brief written description of the reasons in accordance with Article IV.D.2. The presbytery will respond to this report as appropriate. The local session is not judicially bound by the response of presbytery. If the presbytery recommends the officer’s resignation and the local session does not abide by the presbytery recommendation, then the presbytery may or may not initiate proceedings according to Article IV.D.5.

Motion to amend proposal passed without objection. (Note: all three motions were received as friendly amendments and accepted by the one making the original motion as well as the one who seconded.)

Motion failed. 7 in favor, 10 opposed, 3 abstentions.

XII. Presiding Minister of Council (Pastor Hurt) Report

- See Appendix B

The report was received by the presbytery.

Motion - Andrew Richardson moved to approve both actions. Oleksandr Orlov-Koshchavka seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

XIII. Interim Committee Reports

1. Same Sex Marriage Committee – Appendix C
2. Social Media Statement – Appendix D
3. CREC Examination and Ordination Procedures Committee – Appendix E
4. Trinity Paper – Appendix F

5. Memorial E-Terrorism and Just War - Appendix G
6. Proposal for Compensation of PMoC – Appendix H
7. CREC Memorial on Abortion – Appendix I

The reports were received by the presbytery. The floor was opened for discussion.

CREC Examination and Ordination Procedures Committee - Appendix E: Gabe Wetmore suggested introducing licensure. Bogumil Jarmulak, a member of the CREC Examination and Ordination Procedures Committee was present and heard the suggestion from Gabe Wetmore and the opinions of the presbytery.

Proposal for Compensation of PMoC - Appendix H: There was a general agreement among presbytery that this was a good idea. Brett Baker wanted to clarify that this compensation be thought of as a reimbursement, or anticipated expenses, because compensation implies a paid employee.

XIV. Miscellaneous

Motion - Brett Baker moved that Yavor Rusinov be publicly recognized for his work on behalf of Anselm Presbytery. Gary Barnard seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion - Brett Baker moved to publicly recognize and thank Dave Hatcher for his work as Presiding Minister. Michael Kloss seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

XV. Closing Prayer and Dismissal

Meeting adjourned: 4:24pm