

MINUTES OF THE FALL 2021 STATED MEETING

of



AUGUSTINE PRESBYTERY



COMMUNION of REFORMED
EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

Monroe, LA
October 26-27, 2021

- I. Call to Order by Presiding Minister (PM) Gregg Strawbridge
 - A. Roll Call of Member Churches and Delegates (note: the delegates in this agenda are slated from previous years and subject to change)
 1. All Saints Church, Lancaster, PA - Kevin Kanoff
 2. All Souls Reformed Church, Green Camp, OH - Rhett Crabtree
 3. Christ Church, Ithaca, NY, Michael Jones and Ralph Reigle
 4. Christ Church, Morgantown, WV - Jared McNabb
 5. Christ Church, Raleigh, NC - Duane Garner, Nathaniel Talbott
 6. Christ Covenant, Copiaque, NY - (NOT PRESENT)
 7. Christ Covenant Church, Shippensburg, PA - (NOT PRESENT)
 8. Christ Reformed, Oakland, ME - Grant Van Brimmer
 9. Christ the King Church, Belfast ME - Garrett Soucy, Matthew Corey
 10. Christ Reformed Evangelical Church, Annapolis, MD – Dan Nash
 11. Covenant Heritage Reformed Church, Newport News, VA - Jody Van Dyke
 12. Holy Trinity Church, Concord, NC - Wade Choate
 13. King’s Chapel, Brooklyn, NY - Troy Greene; Robert Mineo
 14. Oakwood Bible Church, Troy, NY - Mike Belice
 15. Providence Church, Lynchburg, VA - Virgil Hurt
 16. Saint Peter Presbyterian Church, Abingdon, VA & Bristol, TN - Laurence Windham
 17. Sovereign Christ Church, Mansfield, OH - Clint Ziegler
 18. Tri-City Covenant Church, Somersworth, NH - Paul Edgar, Harold Guptill
 19. Trinity Reformed Church, Martinsburg, WV - Lucas Dorminy, Peter Anselmo
 - B. PM Strawbridge determined a quorum (2/3s of member churches) since at least 13 or more member churches were represented.
 - C. Presbytery Recognition of Guests and Visiting Delegations
 1. The Shepherd’s Church, Chelmsford, MA - Kendall Lankford
 - D. Candidate and Mission Churches¹ were acknowledged:
 1. Sandhill Presbyterian Church, Southern Pines, NC, Kevin Skogan; Drew Maney
 2. East River Church, Cincinnati, OH - Michael Foster
 3. Christ the Redeemer Church is a mission church of Christ the King - Belfast, ME (no delegation present)
- II. Church Reports:
 - A. Verbal reports were presented with prayer for each congregation present.
 - B. At the request of PM of Council Virgil Hurt, the churches present reported on the number of members in each: there were over 684 households and 2225 individual

¹ The usage here designates a “Candidate Church” as a previously existing congregation (from outside) seeking membership in the CREC. A “Mission Church” is under the authority of a member CREC church, usually planted by that CREC “Mother” church.

members counted in the congregations of Augustine Presbytery represented at this meeting.

III. Presbytery Membership

A. Motions for new member churches:

1. Virgil Hurt moved (Duane Garner seconded) to receive Sandhill Presbyterian Church, Southern Pines, NC into full membership. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Vows were administered to the delegates of these congregations at the end of the session and the delegates were seated.

C. Motions for new candidate churches:

1. Christ Reformed (Grant Van Brimmer) moved (Laurence Windham seconded) that The Shepherd's Church in Chelmsford, MA be received as a Candidate Church. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. Augustine Presbytery Examination Committee

A. The committee consists of Matt Gonnella (chair), Rev. Rick Davis, Rev. Jody Van Dyke, Rev. Michael Foster, and Garrett Soucy who served for the examinations of Dan Nash (approved 4/2021), Matthew Corey (approved 4/2021), and Grant Van Brimmer.

B. Grant Van Brimmer was examined.

1. It was noted that Michael Foster chaired the committee as Matt Gonnella transferred to Knox Presbytery in the last few months. The committee examined Grant Van Brimmer (currently an elder at Christ Reformed) who received a call to serve as Associate Pastor at Christ Reformed in Oakland, ME.
2. The Committee reported that Grant's training included an internship at the King's Chapel, under Rev. Troy Greene, as well as ongoing study at Erskine Theological Seminary. He presented the committee with satisfactory exegesis papers, sermons, and case studies.
3. After a presbytery floor exam of Mr. Van Brimmer, the committee moved that his exam be sustained and his ordination to the office of minister be recommended to Christ Reformed, Oakland ME. The motion carried unanimously.

V. Presbytery Reports, Committees, Overtures, and Reviews

A. Presbytery received PM Strawbridge's report and requested ratification of the following:

1. Appointing an ordination committee Matt Gonnella (chair), Rev. Rick Davis, Rev. Jody Van Dyke, Rev. Michael Foster, and Rev. Garrett Soucy for the examinations of Dan Nash, Matthew Corey, and Grant Van Brimmer.
2. Declining a request for presbytery adjudication of a complaint raised against a church's session.
3. Appointing Dan Nash to lead a committee to explore the religious exception exemption to mandates of COVID-19 vaccination.

4. Providing an Augustine statement (consistent with PMoC Hurt's later statement) on vaccine mandates to a parishioner.
 5. Virgil Hurt moved (Laurence Windham, seconded) to ratify all of the actions. The motion carried unanimously.
- B. Presbytery received various reports:
1. Missions Committee Report from Howard Guptill and Kevin Kanoff noted the following:
 - a) \$9,800 sent to Joint Eastern European Project (JEEP) from \$10,350 income from Augustine churches.
 - b) Augustine churches were encouraged to continue to give to this cooperative.
 - c) Virgil Hurt moved (Duane Garner seconded) to maintain Augustine Presbytery Missions Committee for 2022 and maintain Harold Guptil and Kevin Kanoff as members. The motion carried unanimously.
- C. Reformation Bible Institute (Bo Cogbill; Brian Nolder) presented the vision of their institute.
- D. Overture from Trinity Reformed, Martinsburg WV on Critical Theory and the Social Justice Movement written by Rev. Dr. Steve Jeffrey. This will take the form of a motion approving the statement and advancing it to Council. Peter Anselmo (Trinity Reformed Martinsburg, WV) moved (Paul Edgar seconded) to approve the statement and commend it to council. After discussion and proposed alterations Presbytery did not approve the motion, but referred it to the author for reformatting as a potential Memorial.
- E. The session of Christ Church of North Carolina moves that the PM of the presbyteries and the PM of council oversee the development of a CREC-wide diaconal email list, similar to the current elders list, for the purpose of sharing best practices among deacons, and to organize resources and efforts in times of crisis. The motion carried.
- F. Election of New Presiding Minister and Presiding Minister Pro Tem (see Constitution IV.C. and BOP V.)
1. Rev. Laurence Windham was elected as the Presiding Minister of Augustine Presbytery unanimously.
 2. Mr. David Cooper was nominated by Laurence Windham for Presiding Minister Pro Tem and was elected unanimously.
- VI. CREC Council and PMoC Reports
- A. Presbytery received PMoC Virgil Hurt's report. PM Hurt's actions presented for ratification were approved unanimously.
 - B. Reports from CREC Council Committees (of 2020/2021) were received and discussed.
- VII. Meetings, Membership Support and Retreat Costs

A. Spring Stated Meeting (Monday-Wednesday after Easter) - April 18-20, 2022 at Luray House, Luray, VA (evening meal, April 19 - meeting) April 20 - depart after breakfast.

1. Augustine Spring Retreat: \$225 per person. Make check payable to "**St. Peter Presbyterian Church**" with "**Presbytery**" in the memo. Mail to: *St. Peter Presbyterian Church, 3376 Cove Creek Rd, Bristol, VA 24202*, or pay online by visiting: <https://saintpeterpresbyterian.org> and note the word 'presbytery' in the memo field.

B. Membership support

1. Please send \$250/year for Virgil Hurt (Providence Church) for Presiding Minister of the Denominational Council. **Make check payable to "Providence Church,"** and mail to *Providence Church, 108 Melinda Dr, Lynchburg, VA 24502*.
2. \$250/year for the PM of Presbytery: Indicate "PM Support" and mail to: *St. Peter Presbyterian Church, 3376 Cove Creek Rd, Bristol, VA 24202*, or pay online by visiting: <https://saintpeterpresbyterian.org> and note the word 'presbytery' in the memo field.

C. Paul Edgar moved (Matt Corey seconded) to have the fall Augustine Presbytery 2022 on Thursday through Saturday, September 22-24, 2022 in Somersworth, NH (Tri-City Covenant Church). The motion carried unanimously.

1. It was noted that the local airports are about one hour away: Boston, MA (Logan); Portland, ME; Manchester, NH.
2. This occasion will be the 50th Anniversary for Tri-City Covenant Church.

VIII. Virgil Hurt moved to commend PM Gregg Strawbridge in the highest regard for his service as Presiding Minister (2018-2021).

IX. The meeting was adjourned.

APPENDIX: Presiding Minister's List of Ordained Ministers

Tony Aguilar*
Ray Barbeito
Chris Boland
CJ Bowen*
John Correia
Matthew Corey
Rhett Crabtree
Rick Davis
Mark Dewey*
Lucas Dorminy
Paul Edgar
James DuJack
Duane Garner
Troy Greene
Harold Guptill
Wayne Hays (retired)
Eric Holter*
Virgil Hurt
Peter Jones*
Gene Liechty*
Jared McNabb
Steve Murphy
Dan Nash
Brian Nolder
Brian Penney
Brian Phillips
Garrett Soucy
Gregg Strawbridge
Burke Shade* (extend status for another 3 years.)
Jody Van Dyke
Grant Van Brimmer
Laurence Windham

The BOP states:

If a CREC minister does not receive a call within three years of having his "minister without call" status first recognized, he shall be declared released from his ministerial status by the church that holds his credentials unless specific permission is requested by the church and received from presbytery. This permission must be sought and granted on an annual basis. (BOP Article XII.4.b. Recognition of Ordained Ministers)