

Wycliffe Presbytery (CREC)
Minutes of Presbytery Meeting
October 5th, 2011

In a stated meeting, Wycliffe Presbytery convened in the board room of the Cambria Suites Hotel in Maple Grove, MN during the week of the triennial CREC Council meeting.

Present: Presiding Minister Gene Franklin, Randy Booth, David Alders, Jeff Niell, Steve Wilkins, Duane Garner, John Barach (by phone) and Lee Hill (observing)

Opening: Jeff Niell opened with prayer at 9:00 AM and a quorum was confirmed.

- 1.) Duane Garner was appointed clerk by the Presiding Minister
- 2.) Gene Franklin gave a report on his activities as Presiding Minister of Presbytery
- 3.) The Report from the Presiding Minister of the CREC was read and received MSP to ratify the PM of CREC's actions as requested in the report
- 4.) Jeff Niell was nominated and elected as Moderator Pro Tem to complete Bill Izard's term
- 5.) MSP to present the following motion to Council:

With a 2/3 approval a Council Committee may recommend actions to all the presbyteries for a vote at their next stated presbytery meetings. If 2/3 of the presbyteries pass the recommended action it shall be considered an action of Council.

- 6.) Discussion on Anselm Presbytery's proposals
 - regarding ministerial credentials (presbytery expressed no objection)
 - regarding removing CREC memorial on incorporation (presbytery expressed general agreement with proposal)
 - regarding proposal to change minimum presbytery size from two to three (presbytery directed council delegates to hear the arguments and decide)
 - regarding proposal on changing the name of the denomination to the Communion of Reformed Evangelical Churches (general agreement)
 - as part of that discussion, MSP to present the following motion to Council:

Remove the current logo as it contains the Scottish national symbol, and commission a skilled graphic artist to design several logos, without any national flags or symbols, for approval by Council.

- regarding proposal concerning the number of annual presbytery meetings required (agreement)
- discussion regarding one church sponsoring another across presbytery lines (presbytery agreed that this is acceptable)

7.) Discussion on Augustine Presbytery's proposals

- regarding amending the CREC Book of Procedures referring to the number of required elders in a congregation (presbytery was opposed to changing the language)
- regarding amending the wording of the CREC Constitution to reflect the CREC Presiding Minister's office as one of "embodying" the broader assembly (presbytery was opposed to changing the wording)
- regarding a proposed new article in the Book of Procedures requiring a church to seek the counsel of the PM of Presbytery before admonishing a pastor, elder, or excommunicating a member (presbytery was opposed to the amendment)

8.) John Barach, who was joining the meeting by phone, was excused. A quorum would have to be re-established before any votes could be taken. The meeting proceeded with discussion only until a quorum was established once again.

9.) Discussion on Tyndale Presbytery's proposal

- regarding an amendment to the Book of Procedures requiring an ordination committee to inquire into the compensation package of the pastor-elect (those present expressed qualified agreement with the amendment)

10.) The report from the CREC Committee on Missions was read and received

- discussion regarding the committee's proposed constitutional amendment concerning the admission of international churches into the CREC (those present were opposed to the amendment due to lack of clarity)

11.) The report from the CREC Committee on Ordination Procedures was read and received

- discussion regarding the proposed internship requirement contained therein (those present were in general agreement with the proposal)

12.) The report on the proposal regarding a confidentiality policy was read and received (those present were in favor of adopting the policy with a few amendments)

13.) The report from the CREC Committee on Military Chaplains was read and received (considerable discussion was held on the concept of military chaplaincy)

14.) The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:38

- 15.) The meeting reconvened at 1:30 with continued discussion on military chaplaincy. Discussion concluded with general objection to the concept of chaplaincy based on serious compromises in the culture of the military, and thus discomfort with the CREC sanctioning and encouraging military chaplains.
- 16.) Jeff Niell delivered a church report for All Saints Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth, Texas
- 17.) Todd Davis, Christ Church, Searcy, Arkansas joined by phone to reestablish a quorum.
- 18.) The Presiding Minister invited nominations for Wycliffe Presbytery delegates for the 2014 CREC Council meeting
- Duane Garner was elected as delegate, and John Barach was elected as an alternate
- 19.) Todd Davis delivered a church report for Christ Church, Searcy, Arkansas
- 20.) Todd Davis was excused
- 21.) Steve Wilkins delivered a church report for Auburn Avenue Presbyterian Church, Monroe, Louisiana
- 22.) Randy Booth delivered a church report for Grace Covenant Church, Nacogdoches, Texas
- 23.) Gene Franklin delivered a church report on behalf of Heritage Covenant Church, Weatherford, Texas
- 24.) Randy Booth delivered a church report on behalf of Christ Covenant Church, San Antonio, Texas
- 25.) Gene Franklin delivered a church report for St. David's Church, Hockley, TX
- 26.) The next meeting of presbytery was scheduled for May 4th and 5th, 2012 at Nacogdoches, Texas
- 27.) The meeting adjourned with Gene Franklin leading in prayer at 3:08