

**Meeting of the Wycliff Presbytery**  
Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Nacogdoches, TX 75961  
October 5, 2018

Presiding Minister of Presbytery (PMoP) Steve Wilkins called the meeting to order at approximately 8:00 a.m. followed by singing and Pastor John Barach's exposition of the first petition of the Lord's Prayer.

PM Wilkins prayed and asked the delegates to introduce themselves and others from their churches who were present.

Member churches were represented by the following delegates:

Pastor Todd Davis (Christ Church of Searcy, AR),  
Pastor Steve Wilkins (Church of the Redeemer, Monroe, LA),  
Pastor John Barach (Covenant Presbyterian Church, Sulphur, LA),  
Pastor Jeff Niell and Elder Tony Douglas (All Saints Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth, TX),  
Pastor Randy Booth and Elder Jonathan Landrum (Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Nacogdoches, TX),  
Pastor Adam McIntosh and Elder Mike Ratliff (St. David's Church, Hockley, TX), and  
Pastor Oleg Volkov (Reformed Presbyterian Church, St. Petersburg, Russia)

Grace Covenant Church, Walnut Ridge, AR, and Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church's Mission Church, Christ Covenant Church, San Antonio, TX, were not represented. Grace Covenant Church, Texarkana, AR, was not represented officially by a voting delegate inasmuch as the church is without a local elder.

Others present were Deacon Steve Nix of Grace Covenant Church; Elders Gene Capon and Daniel Robinson and Deacon Sean Brandt of All Saints Presbyterian Church; Assistant Pastor Drew Maney of Church of the Redeemer, Pastor Mark Balthrop of Redeemer Reformed Church, Oklahoma City, OK; Elder Lee Hill, Deacons Gary St. John and Steve Ramsey and Assistant Pastor Ben Alexander of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church. Elder David Alders of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church served as clerk.

**Presiding Minister of Presbytery Report:**

Pastor Todd Davis, who had served until July, 2018, as the Presiding Minister of Wycliff Presbytery, delivered the Presiding Minister report. He reported that Pastor Pat Hurd of Heritage Covenant Church had informed him during the year that that congregation had folded. Pastor Davis also reported that he had spent considerable time during the year working with Grace Covenant Church of Texarkana.

PM Wilkins expressed thanksgiving for Pastor Davis's labor as Presiding Minister and offered a prayer for him.

**Church Reports:**

Pastor Todd Davis gave a report on the congregation of Christ Church. Pastor Randy Booth led a prayer for Pastor Davis and the congregation of Christ Church.

Deacon Steve Nix presented the church report of Grace Covenant Church of Texarkana, following which Elder David Alders prayed for that congregation.

Pastor Wilkins reported that Pastor Philip Bozarth of Grace Covenant Church of Walnut Ridge was not able to attend the meeting due to wedding responsibilities. PM Wilkins summarized the church's report, and Pastor Barach prayed for the congregation and its leaders.

Pastor Wilkins presented the report of Church of the Redeemer followed by a prayer for them by Pastor McIntosh.

Pastor Barach presented the report of Covenant Presbyterian Church, followed by a prayer for that congregation by Pastor Niell.

Pastor Volkov presented the report of The Reformed Presbyterian Church of St. Petersburg and of his work in Central Asia, followed by a prayer for his church and missionary work by Assistant Pastor Alexander.

Pastor Niell presented the church report for All Saints Presbyterian Church, followed by prayer led by Pastor Davis.

Pastor McIntosh presented the report for St. David's Church. Assistant Pastor of Church of the Redeemer, Drew Maney, offered prayer for St. David's.

Pastor Booth presented the report for Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, followed by prayer from Oleg Volkov on the church's behalf.

In the absence of Pastor Joe Rosales, Pastor Booth presented a report for Christ Covenant Church, San Antonio, TX. Elder Jonathan Landrum led a prayer for that congregation.

Pastor Booth reminded the Presbytery to put financial support for the PMoP and PMoC in their church budgets.

Following approximately an half-hour break, Pastor Volkov presented video reports of his work of ministry in Uzbekistan and St. Petersburg, Russia.

## **Items of Business**

### **Grace Covenant Church of Texarkana:**

PM Wilkins opened a discussion regarding the continuing viability of Grace Covenant Church, Texarkana, given the CREC's requirements for local leadership. Deacon Nix explained the current situation at the church and fielded questions from the Presbytery. Because Grace Covenant Church of Texarkana no longer meets the constitutional requirements to continue as a member church of the CREC, Pastor Booth moved that the Wycliff Presbytery recognize a fraternal relationship with Grace Covenant Church of Texarkana. The motion was seconded by Todd Davis and passed without objection.

### **Consideration of Actions of the Presiding Minister of Council (PMoC):**

Pastor Davis moved and Elder Ratliff seconded that the Presbytery ratify the action of PMoC Virgil Hurt in posting the CREC Elder list serve guidelines. The motion passed unanimously.

Elder Douglas moved and Pastor Booth seconded to authorize the appointment of Pastor Jack Phelps to lead a committee to draft guidelines for CREC church courts. The motion passed without opposition.

Pastor Davis moved and Pastor Booth seconded a motion to approve the PMoC Hurt's action to gather demographic information through a survey of CREC churches. The motion passed unanimously.

PM Wilkins recommended that the presbyters read the complete report submitted by PMoC Hurt.

### **Consider proposals from Council Committees:**

PM Wilkins asked the presbyters to offer their comments on the proposals from Council Committees listed under the published agenda item 4.

Memorial E. on Terrorism and Just War: the Presbytery consented to authorize Pastor Barach to draft comments regarding Memorial E. and to distribute those for to the Wycliff Presbytery churches.

Proposal for amending CREC Examination and Ordination Procedures: PM Wilkins asked Pastor Barach and Pastor Booth to constitute a committee to receive comments from each Session that desired to submit such and to draft a recommendation for consideration by the 2019 Presbytery.

Sexual Abuse Prevention: PM Wilkins asked Pastor Booth to draft comments on behalf of the Presbytery and to distribute those to the Wycliff Presbytery churches.

Social Media Usage Committee: Elder Douglas moved and Pastor Barach seconded to recommend to Council that the CREC not establish or maintain a social media platform. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Other Business:**

Pastor Booth distributed a draft Memorial on Same-Sex Marriage and encouraged the Presbytery delegates to read it for consideration next year. No action was taken.

Pastor Booth moved and Pastor Barach seconded that the Presbytery approve the CREC Elder list serve guidelines as drafted by the CREC List Rules committee appointed by PMoC Hurt. The motion passed unanimously.

PM Wilkins opened the floor to nominations for the position of PMoP pro-tempore. Pastor Niell nominated Pastor Randy Booth. No other nominations were made, and Pastor Booth was elected PMOP pro-tem by acclamation.

Pastor Davis offered and Elder Landrum seconded a motion approve Church of the Redeemer as the host church of the 2019 presbytery meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

PM Wilkins distributed a request from Church of the Redeemer for permission to use different language for the Nicene Creed than that approved by the Creedal Standardization committee. Church of the Redeemer asked to use the formulation "... And in one holy catholic and apostolic Church; ..." instead of the approved language, "... And I/we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church; ...". Pastor Booth moved and Pastor Davis seconded that the Presbytery approve that formulation as distributed. The motion passed without opposition.

Pastor Booth reported on a proposal from the Anselm Presbytery that a "proto-presbytery" containing a subset of the Anselm Presbytery churches be formed for the purpose of fellowship. No action was requested or taken.

Pastor Booth presented the need for church plants in major population centers. No action was requested or taken.

Pastor Booth asked the Presbytery to consider the future creation of a list of senior, experienced pastors who would be available to regularly mentor young pastors. No action was requested or taken.

Pastor Booth moved and Elder Douglas seconded a motion to distribute to the other presbyteries for their consideration and feedback his Proposal for Compensation for Presiding Ministers of Council (appended hereto). The motion passed without opposition.

Pastor Booth mentioned that All Saints Presbyterian Church shortly would be considering whether to sponsor Redeemer Reformed Church, Oklahoma City, as a candidate church.

Elder Douglas moved and Pastor Booth moved that Pastors Barach and Davis be re-elected as the Presbytery's delegates to Council.

Assistant Pastor Drew Maney presented a proclamation of thanksgiving to Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church for their hospitality in hosting the 2018 meeting of Presbytery.

PM Wilkins presented a reading of Scripture and an exhortation from Revelation 21 to persevere in faithfulness.

Following a closing prayer from PM Wilkins and the singing of the *Doxology*, the meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m.