

Meeting of the Wycliffe Presbytery
Church of the Redeemer
West Monroe, LA
September 21-22, 2020

Fellowship, supper, and desert supplied by ladies and youth of Church of the Redeemer

Present: Dan Nash, Lee Hill, James Nabours, Randy Booth, Jeff Niell, Jonathan Landrum, Steve Wilkins, Adam McIntosh, Drew Maney, Ed Lang

Steve Wilkins/Jeff Niell nominated Jonathan Landrum as clerk.

We sang *Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken*

Prayer by Steve Wilkins

Adopt agenda: no objection

1. PM report and church reports.

Steve Wilkins report as PM: Thankful for response to Covid and sustaining us through this time and extending our influence and work. Commented on Ad hoc council meeting. Recognize continuing discussion about procedure. Thankful for lack of suspicion among members. Noted that this was Ad Hoc meeting and limited only to stated agenda. Only had discussion on some items without a vote. Date for 2021 Council hasn't been set. Reminder to pray for each other as election approaches and related issues.

Scheduled time for tomorrow to discuss issues related to election and potential fallout (time before lunch).

2. Church reports

Christ Church of Searcy (tomorrow)

Grace Covenant Church - Fontaine, AR. Pastor Steve Wilkins presented for them. Prayer by Jef Niell.

Church of the Redeemer - West Monroe, LA. Presented by Pastor Steve Wilkins.

Covenant Presbyterian Church - Sulphur, LA. Presented by Elder James Nabours. Church doing well, even better, over the last year. Pastors Booth and Niell serve as session pro tem. Ask for prayer in pastor search. Prayer for LA churches by Pastor Adam McIntosh.

Redeemer Reformed Church - Oklahoma City, OK. Presented by Pastor Steve Wilkins. Reported increase number of visitors. Prayer by Elder Lee Hill.

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church - St. Petersburg, Russia. Presented by Pastor Randy Booth. Uzbek church is in the process of building a sanctuary building. Reminder to

pray for family health issues in Pastor Oleg's family (wife, mother, etc). Prayer by Pastor Randy Booth.

All Saints Presbyterian Church - Ft. Worth, TX. Presented by Pastor Jeff Niell. Thankful for issues that have been brought to the forefront due to Covid. Prayer by James Nabours.

Saint David's Church - Tomball, TX. Presented by Pastor Adam McIntosh. Sends greetings from Elder Steve Willborg who wasn't able to make it. Prayer by Drew Maney.

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church - Nacogdoches, TX. Presented by Pastor Randy Booth. Prayer by Dan Nash.

Closed meeting at 9:17 pm with announcements about tomorrow's meeting. We sang *Shout for the Blessed Jesus Reign*.

Closed our meeting at 9:22pm with prayer by Steve Wilkins

September 22

8:04 am called to order by Pastor Steve Wilkins

Present: all from yesterday plus Todd Davis, Ed Lang (for a short time)

By zoom: Steve Jeffery, Oleg Volkov, Phil Bozarth, Ridon

Pastor Drew Maney led our devotion from Philippians 2:1-11

Sang *O Splendor of God's Glory Bright*

2. Introduction of delegates and visitors

Not voting: Jonathan Landrum, Dan Nash

3. Christ Church - Searcy, AR. Presented by Pastor Todd Davis. Prayer by Prayer by Pastor Jeff Niell.

Pastor Phil Bozarth commented briefly about the pastoral retreat with some of our ministers back in March that was encouraging. Pastor Oleg Volkov gave a brief update on his congregation. Pastor Volkov translated for Pastor Ridon for his update: commented that this was the first time to see us face to face. He expressed his thankfulness for our prayers and support for the work in Uzbekistan. They do not have their own church building. They have 3 different worship services spread out over Saturday and Sunday. The congregation is spread out over a wide area and requires them to travel to meet, fellowship, and worship. Working to start a new church in Tashcan(?). They are in the process of building a church building and hope to finish this year. Regularly have 60 people in Ridon's home for worship and need more space. Ridon donated land to build sanctuary. Began construction in June 2020.

Questions: We prayed for 5 years and the Lord gave them a son and they named him “gift from God”. We were able to meet his other son and wife by zoom.

Opened a small seminary in Samarkand. They have no good Christian education there and need good teaching. 5 year plan with 2 meetings per year. Up to 10 students for each meeting. The last course was on John’s letters. They are able to have seminary because of our support. Pastor Oleg prayed for Pastor Ridon and the church in Uzbekistan.

Pastor Steve Jeffery commented briefly about the patience of the congregation during the drawn-out process of getting his family to Texas. He’s hopeful that they can be there by Christmas.

Pastor Wilkins encouraged us to get and read *Theopolitan Reading* and the other two small Theopolitan books.

Presbytery Business

1. Request to receive Trinity Covenant Church, Wichita, KS as a member church in Wycliffe Presbytery. Pending agreement from Tyndal agreement to release them. Pastor Wilkins indicated that there are no background issues besides desire to be in closer proximity to sister churches. Discussion. Motion by Todd Davis/Randy Booth too approve. Unanimous approval.
2. Report and/or actions of CREC Council 2020. Council requests all churches adopt into their own Constitutions and statements of faith the Confessional Statement on “Sex, Gender, and Marriage”. Alliance for Defending Freedom approved the paper. Discussion. It is not a decision to approve by each congregation, but Council recommends that each congregation approve it for themselves for potentially greater protection.
3. Other business: Todd Davis/Randy Booth nominated Adam McIntosh as alternate delegate to council. Randy Booth/Todd Davis nominated Jeff Niell also as alternate. No opposition to Adam and Jeff as alternates. Representatives to Council are presbytery presiding minister and presbytery pro tem.
4. Approved the list ministers who are in our presbytery. Motion by Randy Booth/James Nabours to add Ben Alexander to the list of ordained without call. No opposition. The approved list is as follows:

Ordained ministers with a call

Pastor Steve Wilkins and Assistant Pastor Drew Maney (Church of the Redeemer, West Monroe, LA)

Pastor Randy Booth (Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Nacogdoches, TX)

Pastor Oleg Volkov (Reformed Presbyterian Church, St. Petersburg, Russia)

Pastor Jeff Niell (All Saints Presbyterian Church, Ft. Worth, TX)

Pastor Adam McIntosh (St. David’s Church, Tomball, TX)

Pastor Phil Bozarth (Grace Covenant Church, Walnut Ridge, AR)

Pastor Mark Balthrop (Redeemer Reformed Church, Oklahoma City, OK)

Ordained ministers without a call

Nathan Ketchen (Nacogdoches, TX)

Joseph Bailey (Monroe, LA)

Ben Alexander (Nacogdoches, TX)

Ordained minister with suspended credentials

John Barach (Sulphur, LA)

Break

1. James Nabours reminded us that they are still looking for a pastor and would appreciate help in that work.
2. Discussion of prospects and various scenarios on the horizon regarding cultural upheaval in US. Reminder to speak boldly and clearly to relevant issues. Helpful to have good relationships with local magistrates (lunch, etc). Need to be involved more locally, perhaps more important than national elections. Optimistic pessimism. Rodney Stark, Rise of Christianity. Augustine, City of God. We want to mark territory as “Christian”. Large scale education issue, locally a pastoral task. Where can we do something? Minister to people and families in front of us. Reminder to encourage elders and deacons to cultivate relationships with other evangelical churches. The history of man is a bloodbath and the nature of man hasn’t changed.

Upon news of Shonda Parkers’ death, Pastor Wilkins lead us in prayer for her family and thankfulness for her life.

Closed with a devotion by Pastor Jeff Niell from Mt. 24. Who then is the faithful and wise servant. 1 Cor. 4:2 — desire that the steward is found faithful. What distracts me from pastoral duty? Could be anything or everything. What have we learned through this? What have we learned about ourselves? The antidote to wish dreaming is gratitude. Be thankful for corona-tide. Closed with prayer.

Closed with singing of doxology and prayer by Pastor Steve Wilkins at 11:43 am.