

Wycliffe Presbytery Minutes

October 26, 2021, Church of the Redeemer, West Monroe, LA

9:00 am

Steve Wilkins opened by reading Rev. 21:1f and prayer

Delegates present: Steve Wilkins, Steve Jeffery, Jeff Niell, Mark Balthrop, Adam McIntosh, Steve Willborg, David Alders, Randy Booth, Oleg Volkov, Todd Davis, Joshua Luper, Derek Hale, James Nabors.

Clerk: Jonathan Landrum

Numerous visitors

PM Report & Church reports

1. Appointment of a clerk (Jonathan Landrum); no objection
2. Presiding Minister's Report: presented by Steve Wilkins (see attached). Comments about COVID atmosphere — a number of churches have experienced growth as a result. Comments about new church plants, in-coming pastor. Thankful for men of integrity and respect in the CREC and able to have open and difficult conversations even in the midst of disagreement.

*Approve agenda as amended: no objection

3. Church Reports

Arkansas:

Christ Church of Searcy: presented by Pastor Todd Davis.

Grace Covenant Church, Fountaine: not present

Prayer by Adam McIntosh for Arkansas churches

Kansas:

Trinity Covenant Church of Wichita, KS: presented by Derek Hale.

Prayer by Jeff Niell.

Louisiana:

Church of the Redeemer, West Monroe: presented by Pastor Steve Wilkins. Prayer by James Nabors.

Covenant Presbyterian Church, Sulphur: presented by Elder James Nabors. Prayer by Todd Davis.

Oklahoma:

Redeemer Reformed Church, Oklahoma City, OK: presented by Pastor Mark Balthrop. Prayer by Derek Hale.

Russia:

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church of St. Petersburg: presented by Pastor Oleg Volkov. Prayer by Randy Booth.

The Truth and Freedom Presbyterian Church (mission of GCPC, St. Petersburg, Russia): No report

Samarkand, Uzbekistan: presented by Pastor Volkov

Texas:

All Saints Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth: presented by Pastors Jeff Niell and Steve Jeffery. Prayer by Oleg Volkov.

St. David's Church, Tomball: presented by Pastor Adam McIntosh. Prayer by Steve Jeffery.

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Nacogdoches: presented by Pastor Randy Booth. Prayer by Mark Balthrop.

1. Report from Pastor Garrett Craw regarding the Austin mission and his future transfer from Anselm Presbytery to Wycliff. Discussion about Gabe Wetmore's church moving to San Antonio, TX. Prayer by Steve Wilkins.
2. Report from Redeemer Reformed Church on the "informal" complaint of Mr. Doug Tomlinson against Pastor Mark Balthrop. He refused to meet with Pastor Balthrop and left the church. No formal complaint was filed but the session entered an informal complaint into their minutes and subsequently found no problems. Pastor Jeffery suggested that PM Wilkins and Pastor Balthrop meet with Pastor Bryan to resolve the issue. PM Wilkins will report back.
3. Receive Pastor Rob Hadding, pastor-elect of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Sulphur, LA. He will be installed November 14. Minor exceptions to WCF: sabbath, pope as antichrist, paedocommunion. Prayer for Pastor Hadding and their church
4. Other business
 - a. Unanimously approved the statement drafted by Steve Jeffery (included below) on Critical Race Theory to be presented to Council for support and approval. Moved by Randy Booth, seconded by James Nabors to accept this statement and to advance to council to be passed as a statement to be published on CREC website. Steve Jeffery asked to change the last paragraph

from “xenophobia, and every other evil prejudice” to “unbiblical prejudice”. Approved with no objection. Also 5th paragraph “through” changed to “though”. Unanimously approved.

*Visitors introduced by PM Wilkins.

Dismissed by PM Wilkins prayer for lunch 11:58am.

Reconvened after lunch

Special order: 1:15pm – Presentation by the Reformation Bible Institute by Brian Nolder.

b. Elect new PMoP and pro-tem

Nominations for PM:

Randy Booth elected by acclamation with no objection.

Nominations for PM pro tem

Adam McIntosh

Rob Hadding

Discussion. Approved by acclamation a motion to withdraw

Adam McIntosh from consideration and to elect Pastor Hadding.

c. Elect council delegates: Randy Booth/Steve Jeffery to make Randy Booth and Rob Hadding delegates. Approved by acclamation.

d. Approved by acclamation that Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Nacogdoches, TX, will host presbytery in 2022.

e. Discussion of matters before Council.

1. Discussion about memorials and Knox’s memorial proposal and its differences from proposal about memorials.
2. Discussion about the length of additional memorial proposals.
3. Discussion about Godhead and submission memorial.
4. Discussion about officer qualifications constitutional amendment. Discussion about Evangelical/Hus presbytery concerning recognizing retired ministers.
5. Discussion about compensation and expenses for PMoC and PMoP.
6. Discussion about PMoC Covid statement and ratification after the fact.
7. Discussion about the memorial on abuse.
8. Approved by acclamation giving thanks to PM Wilkins for his service and for COTR staff hosting council.

Dismissed in prayer by Jonathan Landrum at 3:20pm.

Reconvene Thursday October 27 at 9:08 am by reading Rev. 21:22 by Pastor Wilkins and prayer. Introduction of visitors

1. Approved without objection the follow proposal regarding public statements by the PMoC:

“Ordinarily, public statements made by the PMoC should be drafted by the PMoC, edited into a final form by the PMoC in consultation with the PMoPs, and then submitted by email to all council delegates from each presbytery for ratification by a simple vote within a reasonable timeframe specified by the PMoC. Such statements should be published only if ratified.

“In extraordinary circumstances, when a very significant issue requires a response more rapidly than the above process would allow, the PMoC may issue a public statement headed, ‘For consideration by the CREC,’ without seeking prior presbytery ratification. Such statements will either be either ratified or rejected by the presbyteries at the next regular or ad hoc council meeting. However, the PMoC should exercise extreme caution in making statements such as these, recognizing the damage that would result from hasty statements that may subsequently prove ill-judged.”

Amend: ordinarily (approved)

Amend: headed . . . : (no objection)

Amend: email to council delegates . . (No objection)

Amend: “at the next regular or ad hoc council meeting”: no objection

2. Discussion about the honorary retired minister proposal and possible voting requirements.
3. Discussion about memorial proposals and difference with Knox’s proposal for short statements to be in the constitution. Need clarity regarding level of subscription.
4. Discussion on Critical Race Theory summary.

Closing devotional by Pastor Randy Booth from 2 Tim. 4. Reminder that the church is the beacon in the fog of our world.

Adjourn with prayer at 11:55 am.